Diocese of Chalan Kanoa marks 40th year. PAGE 2
NMTech, lawmakers bring comfort to Guma Esperanza residents. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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King-Hinds returns from 'delegate bootcamp'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds has just returned from her trip to Washington D.C. for "delegate bootcamp" and has already began the work of promoting the islands to her congressional colleagues.

This week, King-Hinds returned to the CNMI after a week-long trip to D.C. for "delegate bootcamp".

According to King-Hinds, her experience was overwhelming to say the least.

"The best way I can describe delegate bootcamp was that it was like drinking water

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Delegate-elect Kimberlyn King-Hinds, right, shakes hands with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) during the latter's final townhall meeting last Wednesday at the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

DPS moves to dismiss refiled suit challenging Weapons Control Act

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has filed a motion to dismiss the refiled lawsuit by an Army veteran challenging the CNMI's Weapons Control Act.

Last Tuesday, DPS Commissioner Anthony I. Macaranas, through Chief Solicitor J. Robert Glass Jr., filed a motion with the U.S. District Court for the NMI seeking a dismissal of the refiled complaint of Army veteran Paul Murphy challenging the CNMI's Weapons Control Act; specifically regarding the CNMI's gun silencer ban.

Glass argues that Murphy failed to properly serve defendant and fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

In addition, Glass argues

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Salvation Army hands out over 600 Thanksgiving meals

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Over 600 Thanksgiving meals were distributed yesterday at the CNMI Salvation Army's mobile Thanksgiving meal distribution at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Putting a smile on the faces of hundreds while displaying what the holidays are truly about, the CNMI Salvation Army and over 20 volunteers prepared and distributed over 600 Thanksgiving meals yesterday afternoon.

The initiative was met with an overwhelming response as hundreds gathered at the Garapan Fishing Base across the

See MEALS on Page 4

SNILD appropriates over $200K to Legislative Bureau

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation has addressed the Legislative Bureau's financial concerns by appropriating over $200,000 to the bureau from Saipan Local Laws 20-04 and 20-26.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
The Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

Last Wednesday, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation held a regular session to address a number of local bills.

During the session, House Local Bill 23-67 was introduced to appropriate funds from Saipan Local Laws 20-04 to 20-26 to the Legislative Bureau who previously

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
On Beach Road in Garapan, Goodies Coffee and Gift has quickly made a name for itself as a specialty café and a charming boutique.
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WORLD
For many across the Middle East, the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire came as a relief: the first major sign of progress in the region since war began more than a year ago.
PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE
Sean "Diddy" Combs was denied bail on Wednesday as he awaits a May sex trafficking trial by a judge who cited evidence showing him to be a serious risk of witness tampering and proof that he has violated regulations in jail.
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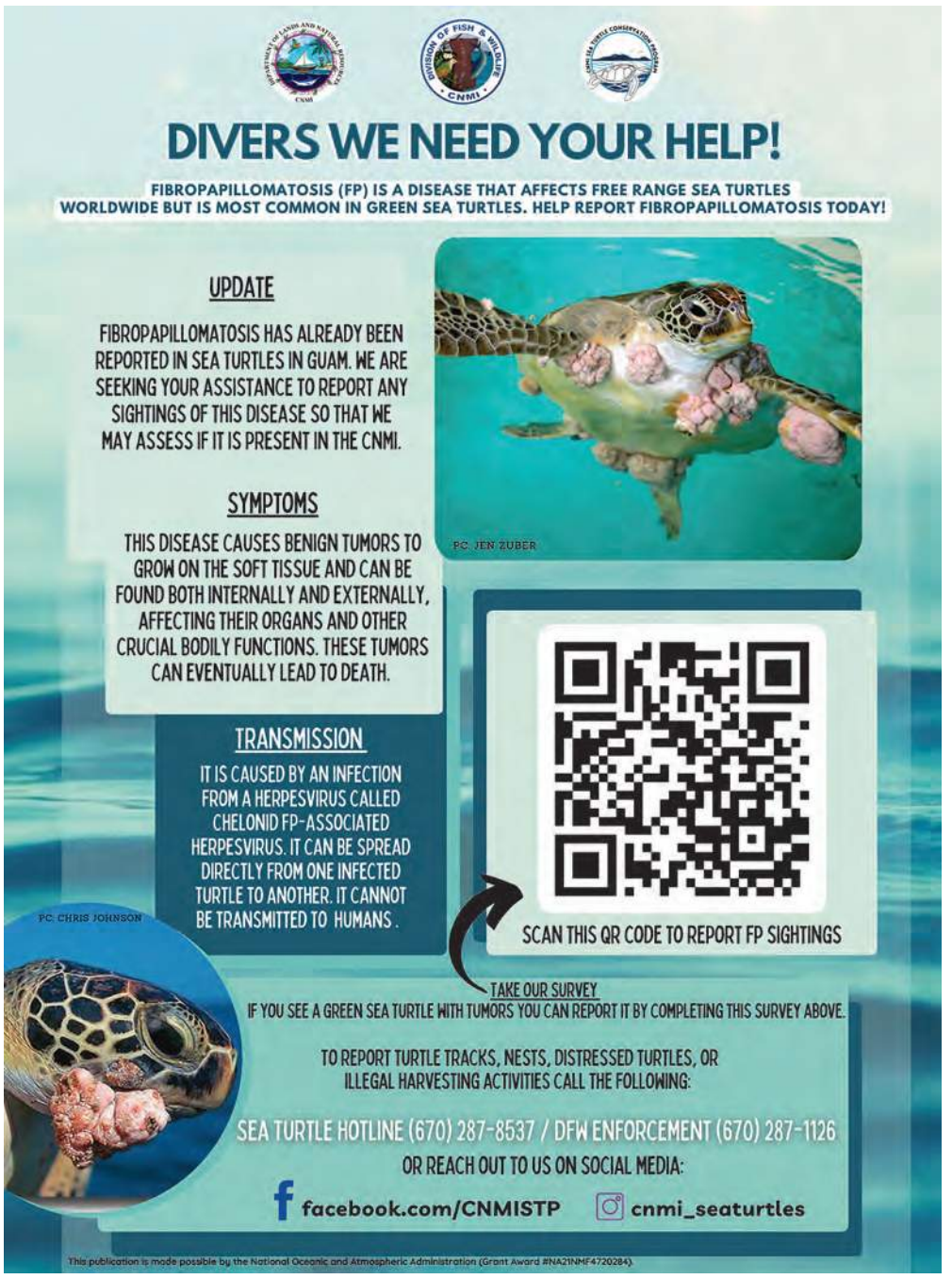
SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.


DIVERS WE NEED YOUR HELP!
FIBROPAPILLOMATOSIS (FP) IS A DISEASE THAT AFFECTS FREE RANGE SEA TURTLES WORLDWIDE BUT IS MOST COMMON IN GREEN SEA TURTLES. HELP REPORT FIBROPAPILLOMATOSIS TODAY!
UPDATE
FIBROPAPILLOMATOSIS HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED IN SEA TURTLES IN GUAM. WE ARE SEEKING YOUR ASSISTANCE TO REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS OF THIS DISEASE SO THAT WE MAY ASSESS IF IT IS PRESENT IN THE CNMI.
PC: JEN ZUBER
SYMPTOMS
THIS DISEASE CAUSES BENIGN TUMORS TO GROW ON THE SOFT TISSUE AND CAN BE FOUND BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY, AFFECTING THEIR ORGANS AND OTHER CRUCIAL BODILY FUNCTIONS. THESE TUMORS CAN EVENTUALLY LEAD TO DEATH.
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TO REPORT TURTLE TRACKS, NESTS, DISTRESSED TURTLES, OR ILLEGAL HARVESTING ACTIVITIES CALL THE FOLLOWING:
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This publication is made possible by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Grant Award #NA21NMF4720284).

Local

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa marks 40th year

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Mt. Carmel Church was packed with devotees last Tuesday night for the solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Canonical Establishment of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

Tagle

Eminence Pro-Prefect for the Section of Dicastery for Evangelization Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle celebrated the Mass and in his homily, he gave thanks for the 40-year blessing of the diocese.

"This is not merely a human creation, but a divine gift recognized through the efforts of many, including St. Pope John Paul II. We acknowledge the contributions of individuals who have made the life of our diocese fruitful over these past four decades, especially the late Bishop [Tomas] Camacho, his successor Archbishop Ryan Jimenez, and the current administrator, Pope Francis has appointed bishop-elect Romeo Convocar, marking a new chapter in our journey."

Tagle reflected on the number 40 in the Bible, as the number holds a significant meaning in the biblical narratives, representing periods of trial, difficulties and temptations.

"We remember the flood where Noah and his family survived. That was rain and flood for 40 days and 40 nights. Then, Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai to commune with God. We remember the people of Israel who wandered in the desert for 40 years before entering the promised land. Jesus, the new Moses, and the head of the new Israel after his baptism, spent 40 days, 40 nights in the desert where he was tempted, but where also he affirmed his mission. Then after his resurrection, the risen Lord spent 40 days with his disciples, preparing them for the coming of the spirit and also for their mission. And, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa is completing 40 years," said Tagle.

Moreover, he mentioned that we are called to remember our journey, drawing lessons from the Israelites' experience in the desert. Although they faced hunger and thirst, they often forgot God's providence and instead longed for the comforts of Egypt. God's response was to provide manna, teaching them that life is about more than physical sustenance; it's about His word and commandments.

Tagle also reminded the community, not to cling to the past but remain open to the new blessings and experiences God offers us.

"We should reflect on how we sometimes resist change and prefer what we know, like past parish priests or familiar church practices, rather than embracing new leaders and perspectives."

The cardinal shared from the Gospel—Peter returning to fishing after Jesus' resurrection, only to catch nothing until Jesus directs him to cast his net on the other side of the boat. This event reminds us that we may not always find

See DIOCESE on Page 4

NMTech, lawmakers bring comfort to Guma Esperanza residents

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

For the fourth year in a row, and in the spirit of Thanksgiving the Northern Marianas Technical Institute and several lawmakers partnered to bring women and children at Karidat Services' Guma Esperanza a hot Thanksgiving lunch last Tuesday.

NMTech Marketing and Outreach coordinator Aaron Tomokane shared that the gesture not only impacted those at the safe haven, but as per every year, being able to give back, touched those who participated in the donation, knowing especially that the recipients were survivors of domestic violence.

Tomokane said that this year, the NMTech culinary arts students and instructors worked tirelessly to prepare a feast fit for the occasion, with a menu featuring classic Thanksgiving staples such as hams, turkeys, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, and sweet treats like pumpkin pies and cookies.

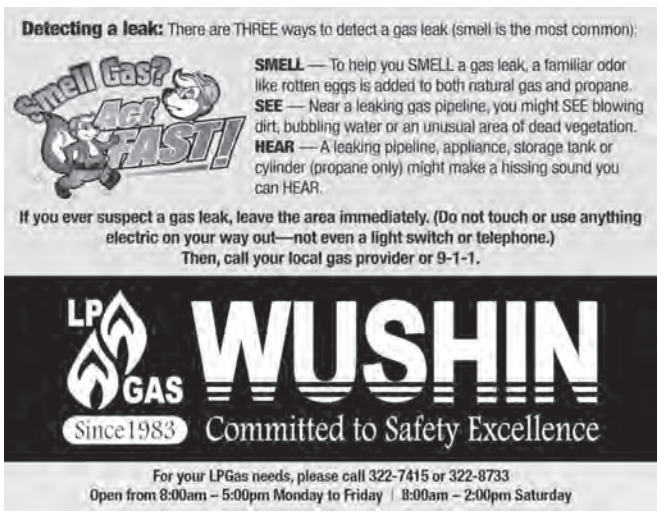
These efforts were bolstered by the unwavering support of members of 23rd Northern Marianas Legislature.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), vice speaker Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan), and Reps. Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan) and Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) joined forces with NMTech to ensure the success of this initiative. Their collaboration underscores the community's commitment to supporting vulnerable populations through meaningful acts of kindness.

"As the tradition continues to grow each year, it serves as a reminder of the strength and compassion that defines our community," said Tomokane, expressing gratitude to everyone who contributed to the project.

NMTech hopes the Thanksgiving meals not only fill the stomachs but also warmed hearts of the residents of Guma Esperanza, reminding them that they are supported, valued and never alone.

As the holiday season unfolds, initiatives like these serve as a poignant reminder of the power of unity in creating brighter days for the community, especially those who may be facing challenges this season.


Detecting a leak: There are THREE ways to detect a gas leak (smell is the most common):
Smell Gas? Act FAST!
SMELL — To help you SMELL a gas leak, a familiar odor like rotten eggs is added to both natural gas and propane.
SEE — Near a leaking gas pipeline, you might SEE blowing dirt, bubbling water or an unusual area of dead vegetation.
HEAR — A leaking pipeline, appliance, storage tank or cylinder (propane only) might make a hissing sound you can HEAR.
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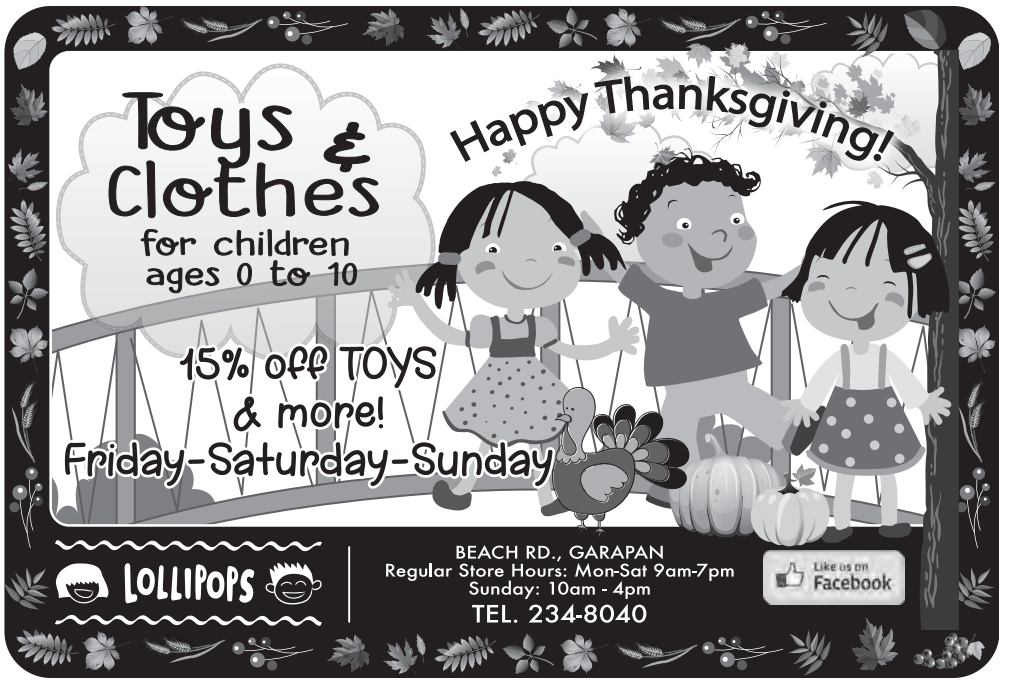

SNILD

From page 1

expressed that they have been crippled by budget constraints.

Specifically, from Saipan Local Law 20-04, the delegation appropriated $59,491.61 to the Legislative Bureau while $150,000 was appropriated to the bureau from Saipan Local Law 20-26.

The legislation passed the delegation by unanimous vote.

According to the delegation, the funds appropriated is excess funds from previous appropriations by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to fund a generator system for the legislative building.

"The delegation finds that the operational funds dedicated to Legislative Bureau under its ARPA allocation had been reprogrammed by the administration leaving the Legislative Bureau crippled in providing services to both the House and Senate members within the Legislative branch," said HLB 23-67.

Recently, the NMI Legislative Bureau announced that it would be terminating essential services following a letter from the CNMI administration informing the bureau that they will no longer be receiving the remaining $1.8 million in American Rescue Plan Act monies allocated by the previous administrator.

Last month, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Finance Secretary Tracy Norita wrote to Legislative Bureau director Perry P. Tenorio stating that there was no sufficient ARPA funds left for the Legislature.

During the previous administration, former governor Ralph DLG Torres allocated $3.5 million to the Legislative Bureau but about $1.8 million had yet to be disbursed.

"We regret to inform you that we have reviewed the ARPA Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund spending and determined that there are not sufficient funds available to pay available budget amounts not already disbursed on behalf of the CNMI Legislature," said the letter.

Tenorio, in a letter to the Legislature, stated that because they no longer have access to these ARPA funds, they will have to terminate essential services.

"Following the governor and the Department of Finance secretary's correspondence informing us that the bureau will no longer have access to the remaining ARPA Fund balance of $1.8 million, we are compelled to take immediate actions to prevent the bureau from incurring unfunded liabilities. The situation is of significant concern. Effective immediately, aside from personnel and utilities, all recurring monthly services will be discontinued. This will have a critical impact on the bureau's operational capacity, particularly in the area of communications infrastructure," said Tenorio.

Specifically, Tenorio explains that internet, landlines, and cellular services will cease, rendering the bureau unable to broadcast legislative sessions and committee meetings.

"This will severely restrict transparency and public access. Additionally, the discontinuation of internet service will halt all communication and research capabilities, and without operational landlines, both internal and external coordination will be significantly disrupted. Office equipment will no longer receive or send email communication, further crippling day-to-day functions," he said.

Although the bureau is still trying to work with the presiding legislative officers on this matter, they have no choice but to cease normal operations, Tenorio says.

"We are actively working with the presiding officers on this matter, and we have communicated today a formal request to the administration to rescind its decision and reinstate the bureau's ARPA allocation. However, until such a reversal occurs, there are no available funds to continue normal operations. As such and effectively immediately, we will notify all vendors to cease services to avoid incurring additional unfunded liabilities," said Tenorio.

MEALS

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Kristo Rai Church as early as 11am for the 12pm distribution. As soon as the Salvation Army truck began pulling in, dozens appeared from out of the shade and cars and started heading towards the vehicle with some even running to the truck.

In a conversation with Salvation Army pastor Wayne Gillespie, he shared that he was glad to see this year's turnout exceed last year's with an estimate of around 400 packs distributed in the first 45 minutes.

"This year we have turkey adobo, ham, rice, vegetables, and two desserts—cookies and ice cream bars." He shared that along with volunteers, they also had a hefty number of donors who contributed not only money but food as well to make the event happen "So we're grateful the has Lord blessed us so that we would have this lunch."

When it came to the volunteers who put the meals together, Gillespie shared that he was personally so moved to see the amount of community spirit shown throughout the time. He was emotional as he shared his immense gratitude and appreciation for them. "Well, the Salvation Army is a church and the core of our volunteer base is our congregation. The base, our congregation, is the rock. Generally, that's how a Salvation Army church works. We feel that we're a servant church."

Gillespie said he's immensely proud of their volunteers from the church.

"We're here to serve because we feel that's what God has called us to do. I'm sorry I get choked up talking about our congregation. I don't even think of them as volunteers. They're heroes. They were there at the soup kitchen preparing for the distribution, since 5pm or 6pm yesterday. And they stayed up all night cooking this and they're still there. They probably won't be going home until probably 6pm tonight. We also had quite a few other volunteers show up this year as well. Just spontaneous volunteers from the community, and we really do appreciate them."

He said that the volunteers, including the core group, number around 20, but they were able to get out a little over 600 meals.

"Our congregation in the Salvation Army is very experienced. We've been doing food distribution for nearly 20 years now. And they've gotten it down to a fine art. All of our congregation members now are the rock of our operations and have been with us since near the beginning. They've probably been with us since around 2007 or 2008, some even earlier than that. So, they have it down to a fine art. They can do things very, very quickly and they have a system and they execute it very, very well, very, very efficiently. "

Luke John Agulto Lizama, recently promoted as a senior soldier at the Salvation Army, was at the center of the action yesterday handing out the meals.

"We like to help. For me, personally, I like to see smiles on people's faces..." he said. "Being able to help when you see people struggle is one of the things I love doing, especially because in a way, we don't know what they're going through."

He shared that through the distribution, he hopes to bring another reason for someone to be grateful for life and God.

Lizama said he's a member of the Salvation Army church and this Thanksgiving distribution has been his sixth.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

KING-HINDS

From page 1

out of a fire hose. You're getting these basic trainings like how to set up an office. But aside from that, you have the political aspect so there were a lot of organizational meetings with the National Republican party which I was able to participate in where they elected the speaker and the steering committee that is going to assist us in our advocacy to get on the committee we want to be in," she said.

King-Hinds said majority of her trip was building relationships while promoting the Mariana islands.

"A lot of that is connecting and building those relationships and getting to know people and just getting the people to know that we are not the "Marina" islands, but the 'Mariana' islands. So, a lot of it was just educating folks about who we are and what our challenges are. Getting them to understand what our challenges are in the district and what our priorities are," she said.

When asked in a previous interview about her priorities, King-Hinds said as CNMI delegate, she will be taking a three-pronged approach to address the CNMI's issues.

"The first is to restore the tourism industry, the second is to immediately work on the CW-1 situation which is about to end here in 2029, and three work on trying to improve the cost of living by addressing the utilities issue," she said.

King-Hinds adds that separate from that she would like to be the type of delegate that consistently engages community stakeholders.

"After things get a little bit settled down, I want to just start reaching out to different stakeholders in the community to sit down and have a conversation about where gaps are, where are areas of opportunities, and work out a plan where we're not duplicating resources or manpower and just strategizing on how to bring a whole of government approach to some of these health and human services issues that is impacting our community," she said.

DPS

From page 1

that the statute Murphy is challenging was repealed by the Legislature in Public Law 19-73 § 3 in 2016.

"The specific statute being challenged, 6 CMC § 2222(a), no longer exists," he said.

Glass asked the court to dismiss the complaint with prejudice arguing that even if Murphy were correct and the ban on sound suppressors, moderators and silencers in 6 CMC § 2222(a) is unconstitutional, the court could not grant the relief requested in declaring a repealed statute unconstitutional.

"The repealed statute also could not be enforced [and] nothing within the complaint or the documents attached to the complaint reference 6 CMC § 2222(a) as any basis for the denial of plaintiff's request for a silencer. Thus, because the statute has been repealed, the relief requested cannot be granted and plaintiff has failed to state a claim," he said.

Murphy, filing pro se or for himself, named Macaranas as defendant and asked the District Court for the NMI to issue a declaratory judgment finding 6 CMC §2222(a) and Public Law 19-42 §208(a)(2) unconstitutional on their face because they violate the Second and 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution.

Murphy also asked the court to issue a permanent injunction enjoining the DPS commissioner from enforcing the ban on silencers, sound suppressors, or sound moderators.

According to Murphy's lawsuit, he has been denied the right to purchase, own, and/or possess a pistol, silencer, sound suppressor or sound moderator.

In his lawsuit he stated that on Aug. 9, 2023, former DPS commissioner Clement Bermudes sent him a document via email, denying his request to possess a Maxim Defense PDX-SD pistol chambered in 5.56 NATO, equipped with a built-in "soup can" suppressor.

"On June 24, 2024, DPS Commissioner Anthony I. Macaranas sent me documents denying my request for possession of a Banish 30 suppressor and denying my request for possession of Ruger MKIV-SD Integral Suppressor 22 caliber pistol. Pursuant to the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in political union with the United States of America, the Second and the 14th Amendments to the United States Constitution are applicable to the CNMI," he said.

Murphy further argues that in previous litigation, the federal court found that provisions which banned instruments to include a flash suppressor were unconstitutional.

"With over three million silencers, suppressors, and sound moderators owned by Americans this is in common use for lawful purposes. The total ban on this class of arms should fail constitutional muster," he said.

Back in September 2024, Murphy filed a similar lawsuit but withdrew it after the CNMI government asked the court to dismiss the complaint.

In 2016, Murphy won his lawsuit against DPS, which he sued to stop the enforcement of the Commonwealth Weapons Act and the Special Act for Firearms and Enforcement or SAFE.

In 2020, Murphy filed another complaint against DPS for enforcing gun law provisions found unconstitutional.

DIOCESE

From page 2

success using our own methods and that we must be open to God's guidance, even when it comes through unexpected channels.

He said that we should also remember the humility of acknowledging that our efforts may not always yield immediate results and that we should seek to align our plans with God's will rather than solely relying on our expertise.

Tagle ended his homily by highlighting that remembering is not just for us but for those who come after us, sharing the stories of Jesus' love and guidance.

The outgoing Diocese of Chalan Kanoa administrator, Fr. Charlie Borja, delivered his acknowledgment remarks after the Mass.

Borja expressed his gratitude for the successful 40th anniversary celebration and acknowledged the hard work and contributions of everyone involved.

"To all our sponsors and benefactors thank you so much. We cannot possibly have a beautiful and successful 40th anniversary celebration without your kindness and generous hearts... To our parishioners and to our younger people, thank you for your eagerness to share the gift of gathering. All our events are well attended, and I hope that our gathering was more than to see Archbishop Ryan and Cardinal Chito," said Borja.

He also thanked the people for their prayers and support for the past more than three months and even joked by thanking God that he didn't spend 40 years as apostolic administrator.

Borja confirmed that the ordination of the new bishop will take place on March 8, 2025, at 9am in the morning and the preparation for the event will begin immediately.

MANGO expresses gratitude to members, leaders, partners, community

This Thanksgiving, the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations extends heartfelt gratitude to the members, leaders, partners, and community who have contributed to the success of our mission.

"Our team at MANGO is so grateful for our amazing community," shared Frances Sablan, MANGO's executive director. "Your support and dedication inspire us to keep empowering the nonprofit sector every day. Thank you for being part of our journey and making the CNMI stronger and more connected. Wishing you all a warm and joyful holiday!"

MANGO, founded to strengthen and support the nonprofit sector in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, works to create opportunities for alternative livelihoods, preserve cultural traditions, and promote sustainability. Through research, education, and community engagement, MANGO empowers local nonprofits to thrive and make a meaningful impact in their communities.

As we reflect on this year, we celebrate the progress made possible by your collaboration and commitment. Together, we are building a more connected, resilient, and vibrant CNMI.

To share our gratitude, we've prepared a special Thanksgiving greeting from the MANGO team. Scan the QR code below to view our message:

From all of us at MANGO, thank you for your continued support. Happy Thanksgiving!

MANGO is a coalition of community-based nonprofits in the CNMI dedicated to supporting indigenous livelihoods, preserving cultural heritage, and promoting environmental stewardship. Through collaborative programs, resources, and advocacy, MANGO empowers local nonprofits to strengthen their communities and advance sustainable development.

For media inquiries, contact Shawna Babauta, Communications & Membership manager, at (670) 233-6200, sbabauta@mangocnmi.org. ***(PR)***

SOROPTIMIST THANKSGIVING DONATION

Last Nov. 27, the Soroptimist International-NMI Chapter made their annual Thanksgiving donation to Guma Esperanza, an emergency shelter for those fleeing from domestic violence and needing a safe shelter. Guma Esperanza is being operated by its parent agency, Karidat Foundation. SINMI has been donating Thanksgiving meals to the shelter for the past ten years and has been made possible by past and present members of SINMI. From left, SINMI member Kimberly Camacho, Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro, SINMI member and past president Maureen Sebangiol, and SINMI treasurer Merle Bryd. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DFW Christmas Bird Count set for Dec. 20

The Christmas Bird Count is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of community science involvement. It's an early-winter bird census where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada, and beyond help count birds in a 24-hour period on one specific day.

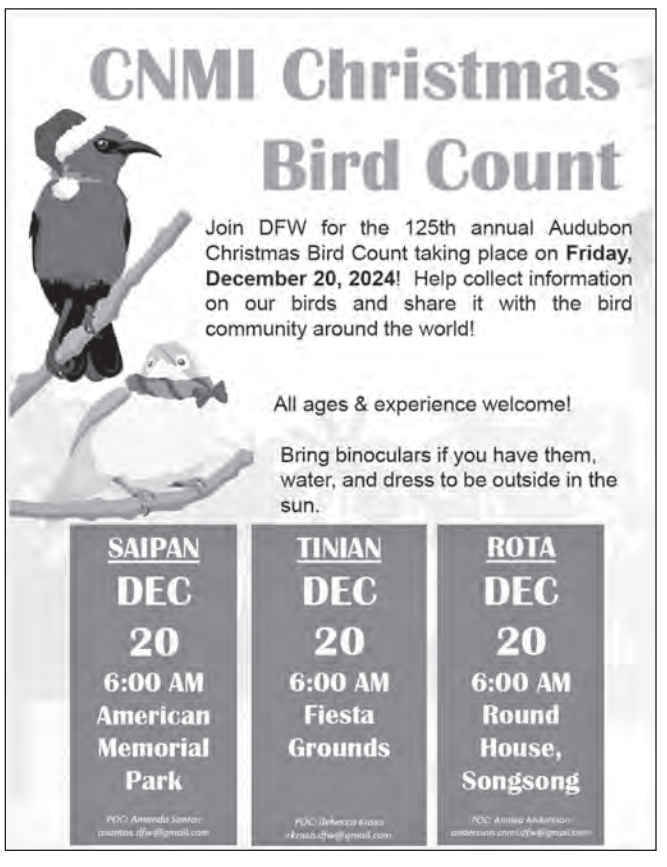
We are looking for volunteers to help with this important event, and we'd love to have you join us! This event is free and open to the public, and people of all ages and skill levels are welcome to participate.

Meet-up times and locations:

- Saipan: 6am at American Memorial Park
- Rota: 6am at Round House Pavilion, Songsong
- Tinian: 6am at Fiesta Grounds

Teams will head out to cover each island, finding and recording as many birds and bird species as possible. Don't forget to bring binoculars (if you have them), water, and dress for being outdoors.

For more information, contact Amanda Santos, (670) 664-6016 or asantos.dfw@gmail.com. ***(PR)***


CNMI Christmas Bird Count
Join DFW for the 125th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count taking place on Friday, December 20, 2024! Help collect information on our birds and share it with the bird community around the world!
All ages & experience welcome!
Bring binoculars if you have them, water, and dress to be outside in the sun.
SAIPAN DEC 20 6:00 AM American Memorial Park
TINIAN DEC 20 6:00 AM Fiesta Grounds
ROTA DEC 20 6:00 AM Round House, Songsong

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-25-002

KAGMAN WATER TANK REPLACEMENT AND BOOSTER PUMP STATION UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kagman Water Tank Replacement and Booster Pump Station Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of demolition of the existing water tank, booster pumps, yard piping, and all other appurtenances; construction of a new 70,000-gallon cast-in-place circular concrete water tank; removal of the temporary modular tank; construction of new generator building; installation of new generator equipment, flow meter stations, triplex pitless booster pump system, telemetry and controls; reconnection of existing waterlines; electrical works; site improvements; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the US Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **four hundred twenty (420) calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-25-002, Kagman Water Tank Replacement and Booster Pump Station Upgrade**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 27, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. L**ate submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2024** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Engineer, Water & Wastewater – via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technichian Senior – via email at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Lame-duck Biden makes a hot spot hotter

The Biden administration has failed to distinguish itself on the world stage over the past three years. The president is apparently eager to keep that lamentable record intact as he leaves the Oval Office.

From the botched Afghanistan withdrawal to the failed appeasement of Iran's mullahs, from the tepid support for Israel in its battle against murderous terrorists to the failure to contain Russia's Vladimir Putin, President Joe Biden and his foreign policy team have struggled to assert American power in the name of deterrence. After inheriting a relatively calm international landscape in 2021, Biden leaves with several volatile hot spots threatening to explode into wider conflict.

One would think Biden would tread lightly on the way out the door. Instead, he has escalated tensions, particularly in the Ukraine-Russia war by giving the OK for Ukraine to use U.S. long-range missiles to hit targets inside Russia. Putin responded predictably, by threatening Europe and the United States and firing ballistic missiles into Ukraine for the first time.

"Particularly jarring," writes James Freeman of The Wall Street Journal, "is the idea of a president ostensibly changing his mind on something as momentous as enabling Ukrainian missile attacks inside Russia while the public wonders if he's even competent enough to explain the decision."

Indeed, the timing of the flip-flop is bizarre. Whether it is wise for Biden to have taken the handcuffs off Ukraine should be a matter of intense debate, but why make the move after 1,000 days and just weeks before Donald Trump is set to take office? "We've got two months to go in this administration," noted John Ullyot, a former National Security Council spokesman, told the Journal. "President Trump has said he is going to ramp this war down. Why are we provoking the Russians, and then having a tit-for-tat?"

The Associated Press reported that Biden offered little explanation for his reversal and instead "left it to allies Emmanuel Macron of France and Justin Trudeau of Canada to offer public explanations of his critical decision to loosen restrictions on Ukraine's use of longer-range American weapons in its war with Russia."

Aiding Ukraine in its quest to fight off Russian aggression is a just cause. But, as Freeman points out, "there's a reason the Biden administration has long sought to help Ukraine defend itself while also seeking to avoid being drawn into a conflict with Russia. It's the same reason that Ronald Reagan sought to liberate the captive peoples of the Soviet Empire while also taking great care to avoid direct conflict with Moscow. The results could be catastrophic."

Trump has been vague about his plans for brokering an end to the conflict, and it's unclear how the Biden administration's decision will affect the incoming president's negotiating position. But the fact that Biden waited until after an election loss to unveil this crucial policy change represents another stain on the president's foreign policy record.

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates famously wrote in his memoirs that he believes Biden "has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades." Can there now be any doubt?

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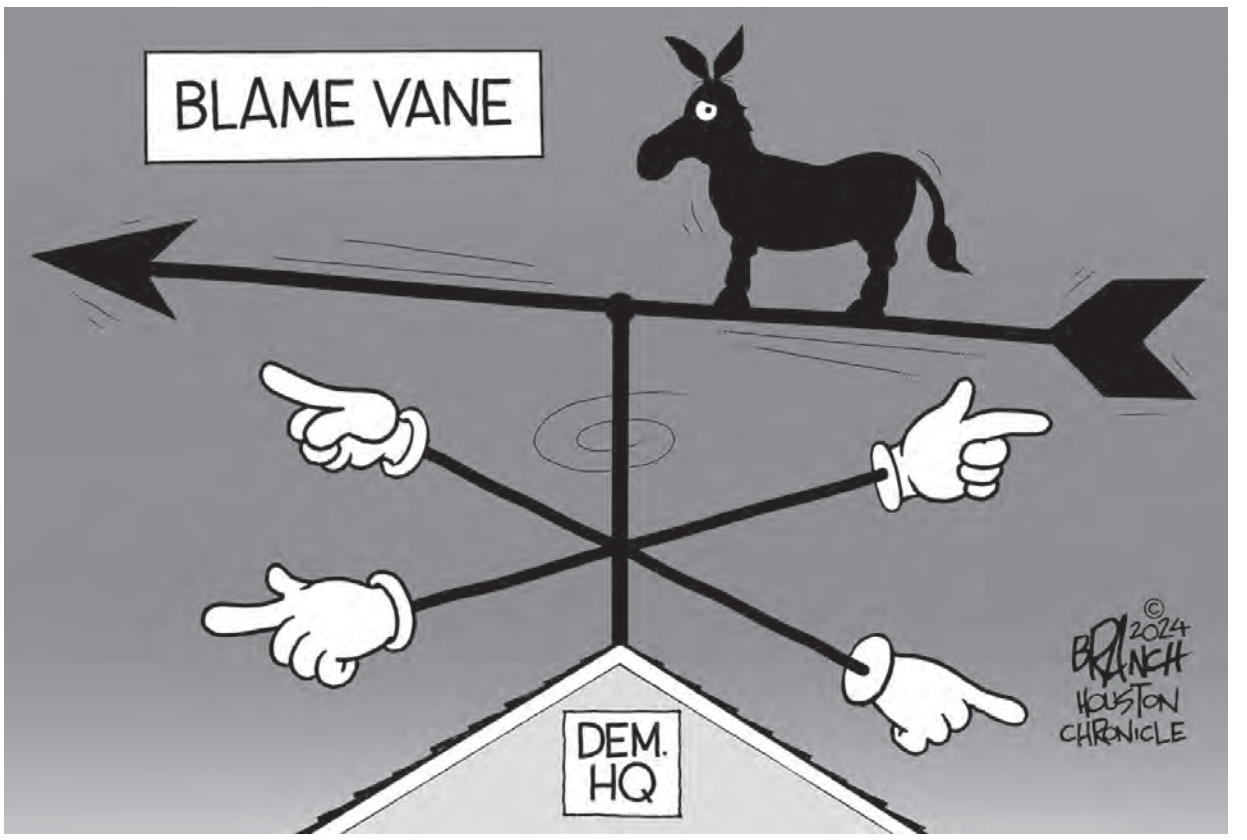


The making of a president's legacy

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

Of all the campaign promises and crisis-fixing commitments president-elect Donald Trump assured us he will quickly fulfill, two pledges are in urgent need of each other. Not starting on day one—now!

We're talking about: (1) the first promise Trump made to us—about finally securing our southern border; and (2) the last commitment Trump made to us, just the other day—about finally bringing efficiency to our government.

Trump made his first promise in June 2015 when he glided down his gilded escalator and assured us he will finally stop immigrant criminals and other illegals from over-running our southern border with Mexico.

Now he's promising that on his second presidential day one, he'll order the "mass deportation" of illegal, undocumented immigrants. (It may be a hellacious day one; after all, Trump has variously promised to use the day to get even with all sorts of his persecutors, including his prosecutors).

Just the other day, Trump announced what was seen as a very different and unrelated promise—to create a Department of Government Efficiency. But under the right leadership, Trump's DOGE may end up being very much related to his border crusade. And it just might save his presidency and legacy.

Trump's DOGE idea was suggested to him by the guy who will be heading it – his newest best-buddy (see also: world's richest man), Elon Musk. Musk's DOGE copilot will be a mere billionaire, Vivek Ramaswamy. As Trump's efficiency tycoons, they may end up saving Trump from himself. If he lets them.

We'll see. If Trump orders that mass deportation, it could end up careening into something that inhumanely separates families, sends the nation's debt skyrocketing and ends up in history's trash pile of ballyhooed government disasters.

Unless Musk and Ramaswamy figure it out first – and save America by convincing Trump to rethink and revamp his mass deportation operation before it is too late. Not because it will be inhumane; just because it will be disastrously inefficient.

The American Immigration Council has just finished an urgent warning-call of a report that shows us the paint-by-the-numbers big picture realities of a U.S. government rush to fulfill Trump's pledge to deport undocumented illegal immigrants. It is titled: "Mass Deportation: Devastating Costs to America, Its Budget and Economy."

The AIC report is a mind-numbing compilation of numerical costs and comparisons. Eyes and brain-cells glaze over. But Trump's efficiency tycoons and all the rest of us need to grasp the basics. There are 13 million immigrants in America who are legally undocumented; a one-time deportation of them will cost at least $315 billion.

The numbers are huge because the problem is huge—one in 20 workers in our country are legally undocumented, the council reports. Most compellingly, the report details all the industries that will be hit hard by the productive workers they will be losing: "Mass deportation would remove more than 30 percent of the workers in major construction trades, such as plasterers, roofers, and painters; nearly 28% of graders and sorters of agriculture products; and a fourth of all housekeeping cleaners." The report also compiles a list of vital things we could fund with what will be spent to mass deport one million people a year.

But what if Trump's new best power-buddies use their persuasive billionaire-speak to convince their leader to deploy his new leadership weapon: The New Efficiency-in-Government?

Let Trump start the efficiency by redefining his "mass deportation" down to just the deportation of the worst of the worst – criminal illegals who were convicted of major felonies or are members of organized crime drug gangs.

And now it is possible for Trump to succeed where President Joe Biden never even attempted to lead—by rethinking the way America makes immigration rulings. He has a chance to hugely reduce—maybe even end—the era of surges that repeatedly overran our southern border.

Here's where we can help Musk and Ramaswamy help Trump. In early 2023, I wrote two columns suggesting we discourage future surges by moving our southern border decisions way south. Create a new highly advertised "Rapid Approval" asylum application center at Mexico's Guatemala border. And announce it is the only place rapid reviews and rulings will happen—within weeks. Not months or years. Asylum seekers must know it is a waste of time to surge north to the U. S. border.

Show Trump his new policy will be made-for-TV. Picture happy applicants waving approval papers and boarding red-white-and-blue striped buses lettered, "USA Rapid Asylum Express," for free rides all the way into their new life in the United States. They'll get help in finding jobs that were long unfilled. They won't be displacing U.S. citizen workers. The bizarre thing is Trump really can be the one who can make it happen.

We're left with having to hope that two DOGE tycoons can (and will even want to) convince the emperor of Mar-a-Lago, refinancer of Trump Tower, and rent-free occupant of public housing at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue that efficiency can be his presidential legacy.

Who knew?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Making Tourism Our Business: Spreading holiday cheer

By CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christopher A. Concepcion is the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The holidays are upon us, and this time of year always turns our minds to thoughts of gratitude, family, faith, and hope. And although challenges of our tourism industry remain, there is much to be grateful for, including a return to standard work hours for central government workers and new flights from Korea coming soon!

Area hotels, stores, and other businesses are assembling their Christmas displays to create a festive atmosphere in our main tourist district of Garapan, and the Marianas Visitors Authority will soon be stirring holiday cheer with overhead string lights brightening the nighttime streets of Paseo de Marianas, illuminated palm trees in the Beach Rd. medians, and more.

We would like to invite each and all to join our spirit-lifting Christmas in the Marianas festivities planned for all three islands. This year Saipan will have two Saturdays of celebration on Dec. 7 and 14. Join us beginning at 5:30pm for a full evening of fun at Paseo de Marianas (drivers, Paseo will be closed to vehicle traffic on those evenings). Young people from our local schools will be entertaining the community for two great evenings of Christmas caroling, costumes and performances. Or stop by any time after Dec. 7 to check out the student Christmas trees decorated with handmade natural and recycled material, always an interesting and surprising display of creativity! A big thanks also to PDM Promoters, Team PDI, our local schools—William S. Reyes Elementary School, Hopwood Middle School, Grace Christian Academy, Green Meadow School, Tanapag Middle School, Saipan International School, Garapan Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, Northern Marianas International School, Agape Christian School, San Vicente Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Brilliant Star School, Mount Carmel School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary, Saipan Community School, Da'ok Academy, Oleai Elementary School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Community School, and Admiral Hopwood Middle School—for helping the MVA put on this celebration, along with this year's sponsors Tinian Diamond Hotel and I-shop.

On Rota, they'll be lighting the official Christmas Tree on Dec. 7 at 7pm in Songsong. Local residents throughout the island are already putting together plans to decorate their homes and yards for a chance to win a nice little cash prize from Santa. Others are planning their floats for the Christmas parade scheduled for Dec. 14, beginning at the Rota Roundhouse in Songsong at 5:30pm and finishing at the Tun Kindo Baseball Field in Sinapalo.

Tinian is hosting the Christmas in the Marianas Variety Show on Dec. 13 beginning at 5pm at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose. Join revelers of all ages showcasing their caroling, costumes, and performances. Food vendors will be on hand, as well. It's always a pleasure for the MVA to partner with our mayors' offices in Tinian and Rota to put on events like these for visitors and our community.

On another positive note, we're excited that our partner Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture has reduced the cost of vendors fees to join the Garapan Street Market, which will resume on Thursdays at Paseo de Marianas beginning Dec. 5 and into the new year (with a one-week hiatus on Dec. 12 in order to shift traffic to the Kantan Isla concert at Garapan Fishing Base). This is an excellent opportunity for our visitors to engage with local vendors and craftspeople, and the food vendor fees are now a very affordable $50/night. To sign up, contact the Arts Council executive director Gloriana Teuira at glorianafolkarts@gmail.com.

The holidays are usually a busier travel season: on Dec. 8, Commonwealth Constitution Day, an additional daily flight from Seoul-Incheon will resume, and on Dec. 20 we will begin receiving twice weekly flights from Busan, Korea's second largest metropolis. There are many variables affecting tourist arrivals that are beyond our local control, but one thing that every single person in the Marianas can take responsibility for to help tourism is hospitality. Or as we say to the school children, just be friendly. Today's traveler wants more than the beach or a resort or a day tour. They want to make connections in their destination, experience authentic culture, and have the type of visit that generates a positive emotion. These are things the Marianas offers in spades that are already part of our culture—and don't require any additional funding.

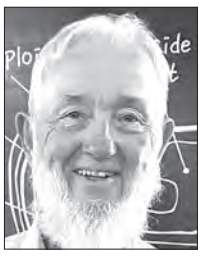
Let's continue to show the world what makes the Marianas one of the best places they'll ever visit—our people and our beautiful, clean nature. How about greeting our visitors with Christmas caroling outside airport arrivals for any of the flights we receive each day or in hotel lobbies? We invite you to spread holiday cheer to all our visitors this season however you can—a friendly smile, a warm greeting…or maybe even a sampling of kelaguen or buenelos dagu.

Between the immensities

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



T.G.I.F.A.S. Thanksgiving—glad its Friday and Saturday

T.G.I.F.A.S. Thank Goodness Its Friday and Saturday
gorging incessantly on fattening food and sweets
still enough chocolate pie left to last through Monday
now more buttered mashed potatoes and gravy repeats.
After Thanksgiving spending days eating leftovers
a soup bone simmers used from the big ham butt
all the beer drinkers have heavy duty hangovers
empty cans in the trash that filled up their big beer gut.
A tom turkey trots either roasted or fried to the table
later I get the trots to end my rich food eating fable
yet I seem to do that every single year that I am able
then get comatose watching sports on the TV cable.
I'm thankful for family and food with God's blessing
turkey, ham, sweet potatoes, and corn bread dressing
pounds gained over the holidays I'm just guessing
my intestines bursting, high blood pressure stressing.

Tales of a wild turkey

Tom turkey asks please give me a chance to eat
give me a chance to gobble like you, I'll find some
low bush cranberries and some dropped apples on
the ground, your control over my death is fine
just give me a chance to eat before I die.
The way that turkey flew and gobbled as it ran
gave me a different view, changed my hunting plan
it put into my head a serious change of mood
instead of cold and dead I will not shoot the dude.
Tom turkey now awaits carving, to be untrussed
and dressed, moist and tender stays the turkey's breast,
hot gravy with giblets, stuffing with corn niblets.
Wishbone! The wild turkey is almost gone as
Thanksgiving must the next morning at dawn
Tomorrow's soup is turkey noodle, cranberry muffins
a loaf of rye, hot corn bread and apple streusel
freshly made whipped cream on apple rhubarb pie.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

National Care At Home Month commemoration

November is a time when we come together to honor and recognize the countless heroes who form the backbone of our healthcare system. Nurses, home care aides, therapists, and social workers tirelessly dedicate themselves to making a remarkable difference in the lives of patients and their families. Their unwavering commitment to the well-being of our communities deserves our utmost appreciation and respect. To celebrate and express our gratitude for their remarkable efforts, we urge all Americans to come together and commemorate the power of caring within the sanctity of our homes and our local communities.

This November, we invite everyone to join us at Marianas Health and the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) to celebrate National Care At Home Month. This is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the invaluable services that these dedicated professionals provide.

With the daily milestone of 10,000 Americans turning 65, healthcare needs will continue to surge, and costs will soar ever higher. Home care and hospice emerge as beacon of hope!

As the preferred choice for most patients, it ensures personalized care and offers the most significant cost savings. Providing care for our seniors and individuals with disabilities at home is compassionate and fiscally responsible. It costs taxpayers significantly less than institutional settings like nursing homes and hospitals, all while delivering top-quality care.

Moreover, the desire to age in place, within the comfort of one's own home and community, is echoed by a staggering 90% of Americans. Home care not only upholds this cherished independence but also delivers the essential care and support individuals need and deserve to thrive.

As we embark on National Care At Home Month, we hope to see countless individuals from all walks of life joining us in educating Americans about the unique value of care in the home.

Remember that home care and hospice are not just services; they are lifelines of hope, compassion, and support for our loved ones. This November, let us collectively recognize the unsung heroes of our healthcare system who bring solace and healing to those in need.

For information about National Care at Month please contact us at (670)233-4646 or info@marianahealth.com.

For additional information about the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) and National Care at Home Month, nahc.org/home-care-hospice-month/.

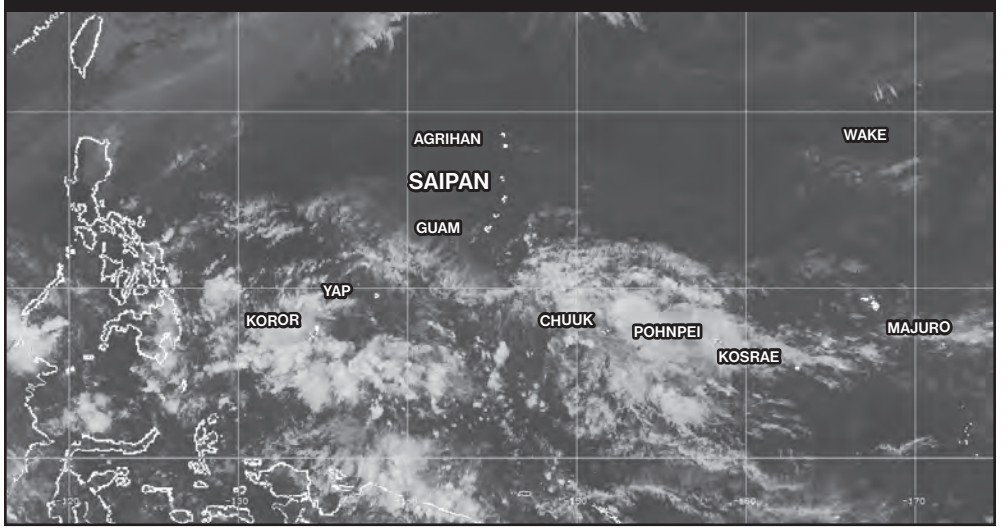
Marianas Health Services
Via email

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 20 to 25 mph. Chance of showers 20 percent.	Mostly sunny with a 10 percent chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Breezy. Mostly sunny with a 10 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers. Breezy Monday.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:59 AM THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and model trends show the bulk of the showers will pass over Guam and Rota and surrounding waters, ending up south of Tinian and Saipan. Therefore tweaked the forecasts so that Tinian and Saipan are partly cloudy with isolated showers through Tuesday. Meanwhile, raised the PoPs at Guam and Rota. They are still scattered, didn't quite make it up to numerous, but instead of 30, 40 and 30 percent, Guam and Rota are now 50, 50 and 40 percent. Also, Guam and Rota are now breezy today, and we`ve already had a 35 knot gust. As long as those are occasional and not frequent, we should be okay. Happy Thanksgiving to all within the US territories!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy/Wind	88° / 79°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:26 AM	4:05 PM	-
Saturday	5:17 AM	4:47 PM	-
Sunday	6:11 AM	5:33 PM	-
Monday	7:07 AM	6:25 PM	-
Tuesday	8:04 AM	7:21 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Beijing	Fair/Wind	45° / 27°
Hong Kong	Fair	77° / 64°
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 72°
London	Showers	48° / 37°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	92° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 71°
New York	Cloudy	55° / 42°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Paris	Showers	46° / 43°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	57° / 41°
Rome	Sunny	54° / 36°
Salem	Sunny	64° / 39°
San Francisco	Sunny	59° / 46°
Seoul	Showers in the Vicinity	60° / 43°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	58° / 43°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	59° / 41°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:28 AM	Low Tide	-0.11
07:21 AM	High Tide	1.52
12:27 PM	Low Tide	0.97
5:41 PM	High Tide	1.65

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	1:20PM	4:00PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	5:55AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:05PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	00:40AM	6:25AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:40AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184	00:40AM	8:50AM	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3407	11:20PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Festive finds and cozy vibes at Goodies Coffee and Gift

JERCY DIANA MAXIMO

Goodies Café and Gift is conveniently located on Beach Road, next to Hardt Eye Clinic, and near Triple J Motors Saipan.

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
jercymaximo05@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

On Beach Road in Garapan, Goodies Coffee and Gift has quickly made a name for itself as a specialty café and a charming boutique. Owned by Amanda Yu, this unique space combines her passion for coffee, art, and interior design to create a haven for the Saipan community.

"The name 'Goodies' reflects items that are fun, appealing, and enjoyable—qualities that we aim to pass on to our customers," Yu shared. "It represents not only the high quality of our products, including our coffee but also the positive atmosphere we strive to create. My goal is to ensure every customer leaves with a smile and a memorable experience."

Yu, who holds a master's degree in education from a mainland U.S. university, spent years in the education field before embarking on this new venture. "Opening a coffee shop is a completely new venture for me, but it combines my love for art, fashion, and interior design. It's my passion to share the things I love with my customers and friends, which makes this journey incredibly rewarding," she said.

Yu's personal love for seasonal home decorating has played a key role in shaping her approach to Goodies Coffee and Gift Shop. "I enjoy transforming my home with themes for spring, summer, autumn, and Christmas," she shared. "I've brought that enthusiasm into my business. Seeing the joy on customers' faces when they discover our Christmas cups or themed décor inspires me every day."

Her concept for Goodies draws from her experiences visiting creative coffee shops in the U.S. and Japan. "In the U.S., non-franchise coffee shops often blend design, lifestyle, and personal touches, reflecting the owner's unique taste. I wanted to bring that concept to Saipan," Yu explained. "The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and I'm thrilled to offer something fresh and distinctive to our island community."

The café is known for its standout drinks, particularly the Matcha Oreo Latte, Butter Latte, and Soybean Latte. Yu described the Matcha Oreo Latte as "inspired by traditional Japanese matcha tea, blending its earthy richness with crispy Oreo crumbles and creamy milk for a smooth and delicious treat."

The Butter Latte, another customer favorite, offers a unique twist on the classic drink. "It features a velvety foam topping that adds a creamy and smooth finish. It's available both hot and cold, with customizable sugar levels and optional coffee shots to suit your taste," she said.

On the gift side, Goodies has become a go-to spot for seasonal decorations, silver jewelry, and eco-friendly reusable bags. "Our Christmas decorations, like mini trees and festive garlands, have been especially popular this season," Yu noted.

Goodies' personal touch is what sets it apart. "I painted the shop myself, handpicked every item, and curated the space to reflect my style and preferences. It's a true labor of love, and I think customers feel that personal connection when they visit," Yu shared.

The shop's dual purpose as a café and gift shop creates a seamless experience for customers. "Some customers come for coffee, others for gifts, and many enjoy both. The café and gift shop complement each other beautifully—while waiting for their drinks, customers often browse and discover unique items," she said.

Like any new business, Goodies has faced its share of challenges. "Our popular Tiramisu Latte—a layered drink inspired by the classic dessert—has been temporarily unavailable at times due to delays in sourcing quality cream and cheese," Yu revealed. "I refuse to compromise on quality, so we've had to adjust when these challenges arise."

Goodies opened in late September 2024, during challenging economic times, but Yu remains optimistic. "Even during tough times, I believe in staying optimistic and fostering happiness," she said. "This shop has already brought me so much joy, allowing me to connect with wonderful people and build friendships. I hope it brings the same joy to the community."

Step into Goodies Coffee and Gift Shop this holiday season and immerse yourself in its charm. From seasonal drinks served in custom-designed Christmas cups to beautifully curated gift items, Goodies offers an experience that's warm, and personal on Saipan. Goodies is conveniently located on Beach Road, next to Hardt Eye Clinic and near Triple J Motors Saipan.

For more information or to place an order, you can reach them through WhatsApp at (670) 287-6177 or follow them on Instagram at @goodies_coffee_gift.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-25
SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 03, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

"TROUBLESHOOT, REPAIR, REPLACE, AND UPGRADE MULTIPLE CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESS (PA) SYSTEM AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING NOVEMBER 01, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "TROUBLESHOOT, REPAIR, REPLACE AND UPGRADE MULTIPLE CORE COMPONENTS OF THE PA SYSTEM **(RFP-008-25)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., DECEMBER 03, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: NOVEMBER 01, 2024
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
RUNWAY REHABILITATION REPACKAGING PROJECT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-20 (AIP PENDING)

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT FACILITATOR

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is seeking statements of qualifications from qualified and experienced firms (individually or collectively) to provide professional consulting services for Safety Risk Management (SRM) facilitation support, in conjunction with the upcoming Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Runway Rehabilitation Repackaging Project, No. CPA-SA-004-20 (AIP pending).

The project is being funded by U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's CIP Administrator, at wprater@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this solicitation must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater via the email address above or may be hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, December 13, 2024.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024.** It is preferable that statements of qualification be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ LEO B. TUDELA Date: November 15, 2024
Executive Director

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB25-BECQ/DLNR-42500016

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 27, 2024 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"Purchase of One (1) Agricultural Tractor and Three (3) Attachments: One (1) Mower, One (1) Front bucket, and One (1) Hitch Compatible w/ Tractor for DLNR – Parks & Recreation, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR ACCESS PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG. NO. 12386 ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. JUSTIN PANGELINAN, CLEAN AIR PROGRAM MANAGER AT justin.pangelinan@becq.gov.mp BY DECEMBER 13, 2024, AT 4:00 P.M.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
BECQ ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-25

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 03, 2024 (2:00 P.M.)

"ACQUISITION, PROGRAMMING, & COMMISSIONING OF FIFTEEN (15) BRAND NEW UNITS OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING NOVEMBER 01, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE $100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "ACQUISITION, PROGRAMMING, & COMMISSIONING OF FIFTEEN (15) BRAND NEW UNITS OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT **(IFB-003-25)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., DECEMBER 03, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

WENDI PRATER DATE: _____
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

World

Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire quiets one front but Gaza sees no end to war

JERUSALEM (AP)—For many across the Middle East, the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire came as a relief: the first major sign of progress in the region since war began more than a year ago.

But for Palestinians in Gaza and families of hostages held in the territory, the news appeared only to inaugurate a newer, grimmer period of the conflict there. For them, it marked yet another missed opportunity to end fighting that has stretched on for nearly 14 months.

Palestinians had hoped that any ceasefire deal with Hezbollah would include a truce in Gaza as well. The families of people kidnapped when Hamas-led militants stormed southern Israel in October 2023, meanwhile, wanted part of the agreement to include returning their loved ones. Instead, the ceasefire was confined only to the fighting in Lebanon.

"We feel this is a missed opportunity to tie in the hostages in this agreement that was signed today," said Ruby Chen, whose son, Itay Chen, was taken hostage from an Israeli military base and has been declared dead.

As much as they were intertwined, the two wars have been very different. In Lebanon, Israel said its aim was to drive Hezbollah back from the countries' shared border and end the militant group's barrages into northern Israel. The ceasefire that took effect Wednesday is intended to do that.

In Gaza, Israel's goals are more sweeping. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been resolute in insisting that Hamas must be completely destroyed and Israel must retain lasting control over parts of the territory. Months of talks have failed to get Netanyahu to back down from those demands—or to convince Hamas to release hostages under those terms.

For Palestinians in Gaza, that means continuing misery under an Israeli campaign that has demolished much of the territory and driven almost the entire population from their homes. Hundreds of thousands are going hungry while living in squalid tent cities as the second winter of the war brings cold rains and flooding.

"They agree to a ceasefire in one place and not in the other? Have mercy on the children, the elderly and the women," said Ahlam Abu Shalabi, living in tent in central Gaza. "Now it is winter, and all the people are drowning."

Palestinians feel resigned to continued war

The war between Israel and Hamas began on Oct. 7, 2023, when militants attacked Israel from Gaza, killing around 1,200 people and taking some 250 hostage. Israel's retaliatory offensive has rained devastation on the Palestinian territory, killing over 44,000 people, according to local health officials. The officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and fighters in their count, say over half of the dead are women and children.

Hezbollah began firing into Israel a day after Hamas' attack in solidarity with the Palestinian militant group. The two sides have exchanged near-daily barrages since. Moving thousands of troops to its northern border, Israel ramped up bombardment of southern Lebanon and launched a ground invasion there two months ago, killing many of Hezbollah's leaders.

Palestinians now fear Israel's military can return its full focus to Gaza—a point that Netanyahu made as he announced the ceasefire in Lebanon on Tuesday.

"The pressure will be more on Gaza," said Mamdouh Younis, a displaced man in a central Gaza tent camp. Netanyahu, he said, can now exploit the fact that "Gaza has become alone, far from all the arenas that were supporting it, especially the Lebanon front."

Israeli troops are already engaged in fierce fighting in Gaza's north, where a two-month offensive has cut off most aid and caused experts to warn a famine may be underway. Strikes all over the territory regularly kill dozens.

In signing onto the ceasefire deal, Hezbollah reversed its long-held position that it wouldn't stop its barrages across the border unless Israel ends the war in Gaza.

"This could have a psychological impact, as it will further entrench the understanding that Palestinians in Gaza are alone in resisting against their occupiers," said Tariq Kenney Shawa, a U.S. policy fellow at Al-Shabaka, a Palestinian think tank.

Hamas may dig its heels in

It also leaves Hamas—its capabilities already severely damaged by Israel's offensive—to fight alone. Hamas official Osama Hamdan appeared to accept Hezbollah's new position in an interview Monday.

"Any announcement of a ceasefire is welcome. Hezbollah has stood by our people and made significant sacrifices," Hamdan told the Lebanese broadcaster Al-Mayadeen, which is seen as politically allied with Hezbollah.

Khalil Sayegh, a Palestinian analyst, said the ceasefire could make Hamas even less popular in Gaza, by proving the failure of its gambit that its attack on Israel would rally other militant groups to the fight.

"It's a moment where we can see the Hamas messaging become weaker and weaker, as they struggle to justify their strategy to the public," said Sayegh.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday that the Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire could help force Hamas to the negotiating table because it would show the group that the "cavalry is not on the way."

But Hamas experts predicted that it would only dig in both on the battlefield and in talks. Hamas has insisted it will only release all the hostages in return for a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

"I expect Hamas will continue using guerrilla warfare to confront Israeli forces in Gaza as long as they remain," said Shawa.

Hostage families lose hope

Dozens of Israelis thronged a major highway in Tel Aviv on Tuesday night, protesting for the return of the hostages as the country waited to hear if a ceasefire in Lebanon had been agreed.

Around 100 people taken hostage are still held in Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead. Most of the other hostages seized by Hamas were released during a ceasefire last year.

Ricardo Grichener, the uncle of 23-year-old hostage Omer Wenkert, said the ceasefire with Hezbollah showed how the Israeli government was openly disregarding the hostages.

Even though Israel has inflicted greater damage on Hamas in Gaza than on Hezbollah in Lebanon, he said "the decision to postpone a deal in Gaza and release the hostages is not based on the same military success criteria."

The most recent effort to wind down the war stalled in October. U.S. President Joe Biden said Tuesday he would begin a renewed push, but his administration is now in its waning days after the reelection of former President Donald Trump.

"This ceasefire doesn't concern our hostages. I believe that Netanyahu forgot about them, and he just wants to keep fighting in Gaza," said Ifat Kalderon, clutching a photo of her cousin, Ofer Kalderon, who is a hostage and a father to four.

S. Korean leader meets Ukraine delegation and calls for response to N. Korean troops in Russia

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president on Wednesday met a visiting Ukraine delegation and called for the two countries to formulate countermeasures in response to the threat posed by North Korea's recent dispatch of more than 10,000 soldiers to support Russia's war against Ukraine.

The North Korean troop deployment is threatening to expand the almost three-year war, with Ukraine and the U.S. saying that some of the soldiers have already begun engaging in battle on the front lines. Seoul and Washington also worry that Russia might in return help North Korea build more advanced nuclear weapons targeting them. In late October, South Korea warned it could respond by supplying weapons to Ukraine.

During a meeting with the Ukrainian delegation led by Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, President Yoon Suk Yeol said he hopes that Seoul and Kiev will work out effective ways to cope with the security threat posed by the North Korean-Russian military cooperation including the North's troop dispatch, Yoon's office said in a statement.

The Ukrainian delegation later met separately with Yoon's national security adviser, Shin Wonsik, and Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun. During the meetings, Umerov briefed the South Korean officials on the status of the Russia-Ukraine war and expressed hope that Kyiv and Seoul will strengthen cooperation, the statement said.

It said the two sides agreed to continue to share information on the North Korean troops in Russia and North Korean-Russian weapons and technology transfers while closely coordinating with the United States.

The South Korean statement didn't say whether the two sides discussed Seoul's possible weapons supply to Ukraine.

Many observers say Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election could make South Korea more cautious about potentially shipping weapons to Ukraine because Trump has promised to end the war swiftly.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, South Korea has joined U.S.-led sanctions against Moscow and shipped humanitarian and financial support to Kyiv. But it has avoided directly supplying arms in line with its policy of not supplying lethal weapons to countries actively engaged in conflicts.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of November 29, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Vista Homes, LLC.	10/30/2024 SMS-2025-006	Construction of 46-Unit, two story Residential Duplex Apartments	Dandan, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 12/10/2024
2.	H J 2 Corporation dba Marine World	11/18/2024 SLR-2025-007	Commercial Motorized Parasailing Activities	All Designated Parasailing Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Tabled* 11/20/2024
3.	GHD, Inc.	11/19/2024 SSPIm-2025-008	Geotechnical Soil Investigation	Puerto Rico. Saipan	Shoreline and Ports & Industrial	Application Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Life & Style

Combs denied bail a third time as he awaits sex trafficking trial

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs was denied bail on Wednesday as he awaits a May sex trafficking trial by a judge who cited evidence showing him to be a serious risk of witness tampering and proof that he has violated regulations in jail.

U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian made the decision in a written ruling following a bail hearing last week, when lawyers for the hip-hop mogul argued that a $50 million bail package they proposed would be sufficient to ensure Combs doesn't flee and doesn't try to intimidate prospective trial witnesses.

Two other judges previously had been persuaded by prosecutors' arguments that the Bad Boy Records founder was a danger to the community if he is not behind bars.

Combs

Lawyers did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment on the decision.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty to charges that he coerced and abused women for years, aided by associates and employees. An indictment alleges that he silenced victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings.

A federal appeals court judge last month denied Combs' immediate release while a three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan considers his bail request.

Prosecutors have insisted that no bail conditions would be sufficient to protect the public and prevent the "I'll Be Missing You" singer from fleeing.

They say that even in a federal lockup in Brooklyn, Combs has orchestrated social media campaigns designed to influence prospective jurors and tried to publicly leak materials he thinks can help his case. They say he also has contacted potential witnesses through third parties.

Lawyers for Combs say any alleged sexual abuse described in the indictment occurred during consensual relations between adults and that new evidence refutes allegations that Combs used his "power and prestige" to induce female victims into drugged-up, elaborately produced sexual performances with male sex workers known as "Freak Offs."

Police deny sitting on evidence as Netflix doc brings renewed attention to JonBenet Ramsey's killing

DENVER (AP —Amid renewed interest in the killing of JonBenet Ramsey triggered in part by a new Netflix documentary, police in Boulder, Colorado, refuted assertions this week that there is viable evidence and leads about the 1996 killing of the 6-year-old girl that they are not pursuing.

AP

A police officer sits in her cruiser, Jan. 3, 1997, outside the home in which 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey was found murdered in Boulder, Colo., on Dec. 26, 1996.

JonBenet Ramsey, who competed in beauty pageants, was found dead in the basement of her family's home in the college town of Boulder the day after Christmas in 1996. Her body was found several hours after her mother called 911 to say her daughter was missing and a ransom note had been left behind. The details of the crime and video footage of JonBenet competing in pageants propelled the case into one of the highest-profile mysteries in the United States.

The police comments came as part of their annual update on the investigation, a month before the 28th anniversary of JonBenet's killing. Police said they released it a little earlier due to the increased attention on the case, apparently referring to the three-part Netflix series "Cold Case: Who Killed JonBenet Ramsey."

In a video statement, Boulder Police Chief Steve Redfearn said the department welcomes news coverage and documentaries about the killing of JonBenet, who would have been 34 this year, as a way to generate possible new leads. He said the department is committed to solving the case but needs to be careful about what it shares about the investigation to protect a possible future prosecution.

"What I can tell you though, is we have thoroughly investigated multiple people as suspects throughout the years and we continue to be open-minded about what occurred as we investigate the tips that come into detectives," he said.

The Netflix documentary focuses on the mistakes made by police and the "media circus" surrounding the case.

Massive balloons take shape ahead of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

NEW YORK (AP)—They're up, up and—almost—away.

The massive helium balloons that will float through New York City for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade took shape on Wednesday, when they were filled with helium ahead of the big event.

"You see these giant balloons come to life and they're really, really huge," said Stephanie Senkevich, one of dozens of people helping inflate the stars of Thursday's show. "You can see them start on the ground right next to you where you look taller than them. And slowly, slowly, they start to raise right above you."

This year, 17 giant character balloons will travel from Manhattan's Upper West Side to Macy's Herald Square flagship store on 34th Street, alongside floats, performers, marching bands and more.

AP

A person inflates a float of Goku in preparation for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, in New York.

There will be six new featured character balloons—including Minnie Mouse, Goku from "Dragon Ball" and a new Spider-Man—joining favorites such as Smokey Bear and SpongeBob SquarePants.

Trip to visit friend comes with an irritating catch

DEAR ABBY: I was recently invited for a long weekend at my friend's new home in South Carolina. She has wanted me to come there to visit ever since she purchased it. I offered to come down, but then I sprained my ankle, and it still has not healed.

My friend then told me her daughter and son-in-law will be there with their two young children. She said we can babysit her grandchildren while I'm there when her daughter and son-in-law go out. I told her I don't want to go down there to babysit. I have no children and do not enjoy babysitting. She used to do this to me before she moved. Now she's upset that I won't help her. What should I do?

NOT INTERESTED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR NOT INTERESTED: What you do is this: Repeat to your manipulative friend that your ankle is still healing, it is difficult to get around and you are UNABLE to chase after young children. Tell her that when you are better you would love to see her place and visit one on one. Then stick to your guns.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a male singer and guitarist who has been playing in small local venues most of my life. My new duo partner is a nice person and decent multi-instrumentalist. The problem is that he cannot—and should not—sing, though he believes he is a fine vocalist.

His new girlfriend recently confided to me that she feels he shouldn't sing because it is damaging to our joint reputation and to my own as a musician. She doesn't know how to tell him or whether she should. I don't know how to tell him either without risking our partnership, although at this point, any gigs we acquire will be one-offs because of the poor vocal performance that will result.

Over the years, I have failed auditions and learned from constructive criticism. Should I tell him or try to dissolve our duo gently?

OLD CANADIAN ROCKER

DEAR ROCKER: Your relationship with this partner isn't social; it is BUSINESS. He is in denial about his limited abilities. Bursting his bubble by enlightening him that his singing is holding you back will not endear you to him. It would be best to dissolve the partnership as kindly as you can and find a replacement.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My parents are starting to get older and have a number of health issues. I am one of three children now in our 40s. My parents got an attorney to write their will and have cut one child out completely. They decided to give another child two-thirds of their estate while leaving me with only one-third. They claim the reason is that my sister will be responsible for their health when and if they get to that point. We aren't talking about lots of money, but I don't know what I should do.

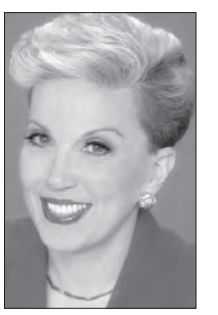
NOT THE FAVORITE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR NOT THE FAVORITE: What you should do is accept your parents' reasoning, as well as their generosity, and not argue about it. Be grateful, because doing otherwise will get you nowhere.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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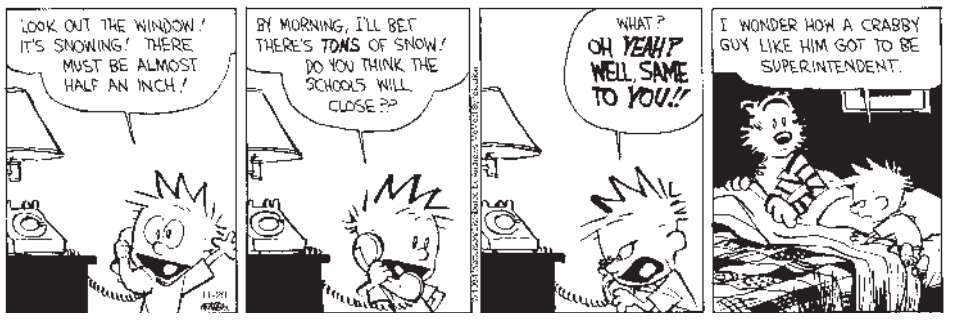
Pastimes

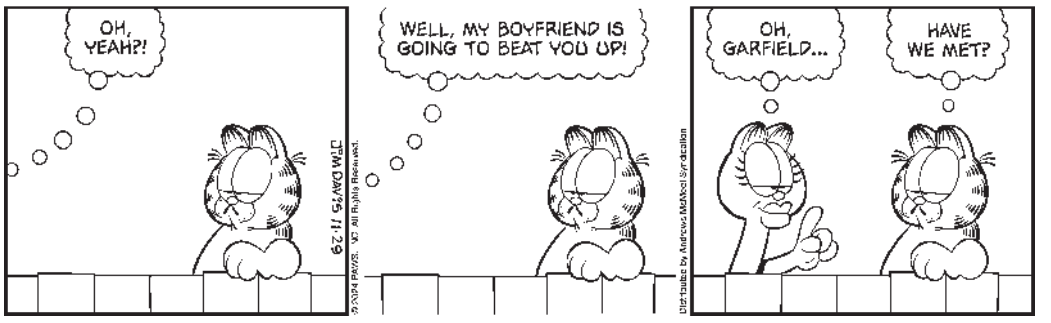
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK OUT THE WINDOW! IT'S SNOWING! THERE MUST BE ALMOST HALF AN INCH!
BY MORNING, I'LL BET THERE'S TONS OF SNOW! DO YOU THINK THE SCHOOLS WILL CLOSE??
WHAT? OH YEAH? WELL, SAME TO YOU!!
I WONDER HOW A CRABBY GUY LIKE HIM GOT TO BE SUPERINTENDENT.

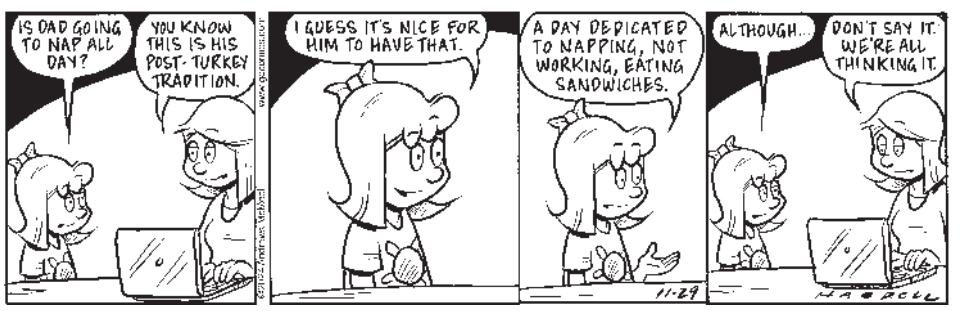
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IS DAD GOING TO NAP ALL DAY?
YOU KNOW THIS IS HIS POST-TURKEY TRADITION.
I GUESS IT'S NICE FOR HIM TO HAVE THAT.
A DAY DEDICATED TO NAPPING, NOT WORKING, EATING SANDWICHES.
ALTHOUGH...
DON'T SAY IT. WE'RE ALL THINKING IT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

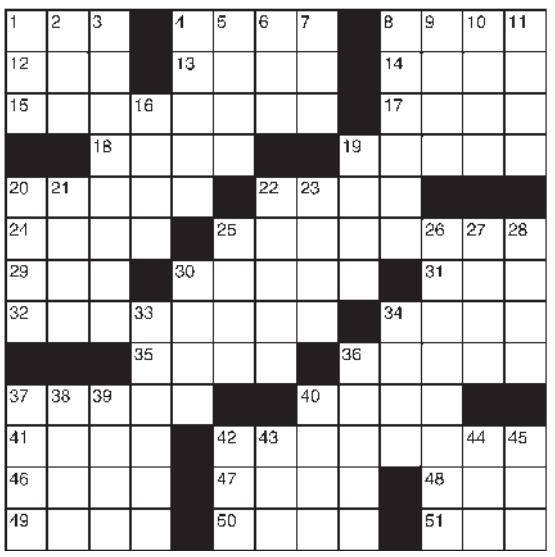
ACROSS
1 Karaoke prop, for short
4 Comedian Fey
8 Andy's boy
12 "CSI" find
13 PC picture
14 Scoundrels
15 Pulitzer-winning poet Carl
17 Field yield
18 Greek war god
19 Strapping
20 Egypt's Anwar
22 H.S. lab class
24 Landed
25 Bunker
29 "Today" rival, briefly
30 Tie the knot
31 Outback bird
32 Desert formation
34 "Frozen" reindeer
35 Has a bug
36 Secluded spots
37 Disney deer
40 Fly high
41 United — Emirates
42 Snack made with leftover Thanksgiving turkey
46 Playwright Simon
47 Lawyer Clooney
48 Time line period
49 Big wind
50 Lacking pep
51 Heat source

DOWN
1 ER workers
2 — tizzy
3 Celine Dion, by birth
4 Nepal's neighbor
5 Hosp. areas
6 Hide-hair insert
7 "Hulk" director Lee
8 Supernatural
9 Henry VIII's Catherine
10 Fan fave
11 Glimpse
16 "Phooey!"
19 Physique
20 Droops
21 Mater lead-in
22 Rural buildings
23 Concerning
25 Biblical king
26 Daydreams
27 "So be it"
28 Bits of wit
30 1502, to Caesar
33 Tinker
34 Cabbage salad
36 Pious
37 Firecracker sound
38 Bailiwick
39 Postal delivery
40 Hose woe
42 Bando of baseball
43 "I love," in Latin
44 French vineyard
45 Chinese dynasty

Solution time: 24 mins.

M	O	P	S	■	P	E	G	■	O	A	F	S
A	M	E	N	■	R	O	I	■	H	I	B	S
R	A	N	I	■	I	N	G	■	B	R	I	E
C	R	A	F	T	S	■	G	R	I	M	■	■
■	■	■	F	A	M	I	L	Y	T	I	M	E
S	M	E	L	T	■	B	E	E	■	L	I	L
M	A	L	E	■	V	I	D	■	S	E	M	I
O	L	E	■	P	E	Z	■	T	A	S	E	S
G	I	V	E	T	H	A	N	K	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	C	A	I	■	Y	O	H	O	H	O
A	L	T	O	■	C	E	L	■	I	V	A	N
N	O	E	L	■	L	O	O	■	M	I	K	E
N	U	D	C	■	E	C	N	■	I	D	E	S

Yesterday's answer 11-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anna Faris, 48; Don Cheadle, 60; Andrew McCarthy, 62; Howie Mandel, 69.

Happy Birthday: Highlight preparation, research and communication, and success will come your way. Be willing to put in the time and effort and explore possibilities based on innovative ideas. You are overdue for a change, but it must be well thought out and within your budget. Listen to your heart and intuition before trusting someone dishing out hearsay. Create opportunities instead of waiting for an offer. Your numbers are 9, 17, 21, 24, 33, 40, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take care of matters that concern you quickly and intelligently. Stick to the basics and facts, and honor the promises you make. Invest more time and money into self-improvement and raising your profile. Additional qualifications will differentiate you from rivals. Confidence will carry you to the winner's circle. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* When boredom kicks in, it's up to you to shake things up and try something new and exciting. Motivation to set yourself up for a position you yearn for coupled with a trendy new look will offer feedback that motivates you to fine-tune your schedule and encourages a positive impact. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Explore the possibilities, but refrain from letting anyone talk you into donating or supporting their agenda when paying attention to your own goals is your optimal choice. Your infectious enthusiasm will attract those who want to harness and take advantage of what you offer. Protect your rights and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Shine brightly, manufacture a cheerful disposition and delve into a creative process that allows you to show off your skills, talents and values positively. Put on a show that depicts joy and hope for a brighter future. Romance is on the rise, and social events are favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Adjust your routine to fine-tune your body. Fitness and a proper diet will make a difference in how you look and feel. Networking will allow you to introduce yourself and showcase what you are capable of. Stick to the script to avoid misinformation. An opportunity is apparent. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Review and reset your goals. Refuse to let anyone mislead you, tempt you to do something costly or put you in a vulnerable position. It's okay to say no and to walk away from toxic situations. Believe and trust in yourself, not someone trying to manipulate you. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Uncertainty regarding work or how you earn your living will surface if you feel technology is taking over and jeopardizing your position. Show confidence when presenting or discussing what you can bring to the table. Leave nothing to chance or allow anyone to outmaneuver you. Network vigorously. Protect your home and physical well-being. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Sign up only for what you can handle. Promising more than you can deliver will tax your energy and leave you falling short of your goal. A strategic approach regarding your plans will help those you approach to see the value in what you are trying to achieve. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refuse to let what others say or do bother you. Concentrate on what's important to you and stick to your schedule. Oversee expenses, investments and personal paperwork. Implement physical fitness and preventative medical enhancements into your daily routine. Self-improvement and financial gain are within reach. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Survey your surroundings to ensure you are heading in the best direction. Refrain from starting something you can't finish. Put your heart and soul into what you enjoy doing most, and you'll attract someone who can help you further your agenda. Love and romance are on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sit tight and let the dust settle. Trying to change something or someone prematurely will leave you reeling from exhaustion. Build opportunities that suit your needs and aren't dependent on someone else's faulty ideas. Keep your emotions at arm's length when making decisions. Focus on home improvement and job opportunities. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Set high standards and bypass anyone holding you back. Talks and offers require fact-checking before you validate the information. Keep your money secure and avoid investments that benefit others more than you. Helping others physically, not financially, is favored. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, ambitious and lucky. You are adaptable and expressive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		3	9					
	9	1		8		4		
5								
		9		7	6			5
			4	2			8	
					5		4	
		8	5		7			9
		2						
3		5	1			8		

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	7	3	5	6	9	4	8	1
9	5	8	4	3	1	2	7	6
1	4	6	7	2	8	3	5	9
6	1	9	8	7	4	5	3	2
7	8	2	6	5	3	1	9	4
5	3	4	1	9	2	8	6	7
8	2	7	9	1	5	6	4	3
4	9	1	3	8	6	7	2	5
3	6	5	2	4	7	9	1	8

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/28

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BLACK FRIDAY Solution: 9 letters

N	L	E	N	I	L	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	E	S
T	I	A	W	E	E	K	E	N	D	W	O	R	C	A
N	A	A	C	R	E	D	I	T	E	L	T	U	O	V
U	T	O	G	O	B	B	U	Y	I	N	G	F	N	I
M	E	O	S	R	R	E	D	R	O	N	F	R	S	N
B	R	D	T	L	A	S	C	S	I	E	(L)	E	U	G
E	E	R	O	A	A	B	A	V	R	(I)	L	E	M	S
R	T	I	Y	E	L	E	I	L	(S)	A	C	R	E	A
S	S	B	S	M	S	G	D	(T)	E	I	R	P	R	M
O	O	Y	A	C	S	E	D	L	R	S	G	S	A	T
L	P	L	A	K	N	O	X	P	A	A	R	N	C	S
D	L	R	N	N	O	P	U	O	C	U	F	U	S	I
O	D	A	F	R	E	N	Z	Y	B	E	N	F	O	R
U	H	E	S	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	I	H
T	N	U	O	C	S	I	D	R	E	I	H	S	A	C

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Annual, Bargain, Bogo, Boxes, Buying, Card, Cashier, Christmas, Consumer, Coupon, Credit, Crowd, Deals, Discount, Doors, Early Bird, Free, Frenzy, Hours, List, Mall, Numbers, Offer, Online, Order, Outlet, Poster, Price, Retail, Sales, Savings, Season, Selection, Signs, Sold Out, Spree, Thanksgiving, Total, Toys, Tradition, Traffic, Wait, Weekend

Yesterday's Answer: Strawberry

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367. Order now in time for the holidays!

Young powers Hawks' 135-124 win over Cavs with career-high 22 assists

CLEVELAND (AP)—Trae Young had a career-high 22 assists—the most in the NBA this season—and scored 20 points as the Atlanta Hawks handed Cleveland just its second loss this season, beating the Cavaliers 135-124 on Thursday night.

The Cavs fell to 17-2 and lost for the first time in 11 home games.

De'Andre Hunter added 26 points and Jalen Johnson 22 for the Hawks, who made all the big plays down the stretch to stun the Cavs. Rookie Zaccharie Risacher, the No. 1 overall pick in this year's draft, scored 13 of his 17 points in the first three minutes of the second half for Atlanta.

Donovan Mitchell scored 30 and Evan Mobley added 22 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland, which was trying to become the first team to start 18-1 or better.

AP

Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young drives on Cleveland Cavaliers guard Darius Garland in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024, in Cleveland.

MAGIC 133, BULLS 119

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Jalen Suggs scored a career-high 31 points and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored a season-high 24 on 6-for-10 shooting from 3-point range to help Orlando beat Chicago.

Ayo Dosunmu led the Bulls with 21 points and Nikola Vucevic added 19 points and 11 rebounds.

The Magic raced out to an early lead and led by 13 after the first quarter and by as many as 27 points on the way to their fourth straight win and 10th in their last 11 games. Orlando's defense struggled in stretches, but still forced 18 turnovers and recorded eight blocks and 10 steals.

Franz Wagner had 21 points and six assists to help the Magic.

HEAT 98, HORNETS 94

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Tyler Herro scored 27 points, Duncan Robinson added 22 points with six 3-pointers and Miami held on to defeat Charlotte.

Bam Adebayo had 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Heat, who bounced back from a 106-103 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks in an NBA Cup game on Tuesday night.

LaMelo Ball had 32 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets, who have lost five of their last six. Brandon Miller had 21 points and rookie Tidjane Salaun scored a career-high 17 points.

The Hornets rallied from 20 points down to take the lead when Salaun drilled a corner 3 with 42 seconds left.

But the lead was short-lived as Herro answered with a 3 and then came up with a steal. Herro was fouled and made 1 of 2 free throws, giving the Hornets a chance to tie or win with six seconds left. Cody Martin got fouled, but missed both free throws. Miami's Kel'el Ware made both free throws to seal the win.

PACERS 121, TRAIL BLAZERS 114

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Pascal Siakam matched a season high with 29 points, Tyrese Haliburton had 28 and 10 assists and Indiana overcame a sluggish first half to defeat Portland.

Bennedict Mathurin added 24 points and 10 rebounds for Indiana.

The Pacers led by 11 entering the final quarter and fended off a Trail Blazers rally as Haliburton scored 12 points and Siakam nine down the stretch for their third consecutive victory.

The Blazers hit nine 3-pointers in the first half and led by as much as 10 in the second quarter. Mathurin rallied the Pacers with 13 points in the quarter to pull the teams even at 60 at halftime.

Anfernee Simons led Portland with 30 points, including six 3-pointers. Scoot Henderson and Shaedon Sharpe each had 17.

Both teams are now 1-2 in NBA Cup play.

CLIPPERS 121, WIZARDS 96

WASHINGTON (AP)—James Harden scored a season-high 43 points in 32 minutes to help Los Angeles romp to a victory over Washington, handing them their 13th consecutive defeat.

Harden hit seven 3-pointers, had 23 points in the first quarter and eclipsed his previous season high of 29 by halftime. The 10-time All-Star posted his highest point total since scoring 44 at Detroit on March 26, 2021, despite exiting the game at the end of the third.

Ivica Zubac added 18 points and 16 rebounds for the Clippers, who have won six of seven.

It was Los Angeles' second-largest margin of victory this season, after opening a four-game trip with a 26-point win at Philadelphia two games ago.

Malcolm Brogdon and Jonas Valanciunas each scored 17 points for Washington, which lost leading scorer Kyle Kuzma to a left rib injury after he played just eight minutes.

ROCKETS 122, 76ERS 115, OT

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jalen Green scored a season-high 41 points, Alperen Sengun added 22 points and 14 rebounds and Houston beat Philadelphia in overtime.

Tyrese Maxey scored 39 points, including 28 in the second half, in the loss for Philadelphia, which played without Paul George and Joel Embiid and fell to 3-14. Maxey, who tied the game with three free throws with just over 11 seconds left, was held scoreless in overtime.

Green rode the hot hand during the first quarter, scoring 18 points on 6-of-8 shooting. However, it was Sengun, the 6-foot-11 center from Turkey, who took over late against an undersized Philadelphia lineup that was collapsing on Green.

Amen Thompson had 19 points and 13 rebounds, while Tari Eason added 14 for Houston (14-6). Guerschon Yabusele had 22 in the losing cause for the Sixers.

MAVERICKS 129, KNICKS 114

DALLAS (AP)—Kyrie Irving scored 23 points and Dallas improved to 4-1 this season without superstar Luka Doncic, beating New York.

Jalen Brunson tied his season high with 37 points for New York in his second game in Dallas against his former team. Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 points and 14 rebounds, but OG Anunoby was limited to eight points on 3-of-15 shooting two nights after getting a career-high 40.

Doncic missed his fourth consecutive game with a sprained right wrist, and the defending Western Conference champions were without two other starters in Klay Thompson (plantar fascia) and Daniel Gafford (illness).

Dallas' Naji Marshall scored 24 points, Spencer Dinwiddie added 21 and P.J. Washington had 19 points and 10 rebounds.

RAPTORS 119, PELICANS 93

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Ochai Agbaji and Jamison Battle each scored 24 points, and Toronto won on the road for the first time this season over hapless New Orleans.

Djounte Murray returned from a fractured left hand that sidelined him for 17 games and looked rusty early. He finished with 14 points, but missed all seven of his first-half shots and shot 5 of 17 overall as the Pelicans lost their sixth straight game and 15th out of 17.

CJ McCollum scored 19 points in his second game since returning from an adductor strain and missing 13 contests.

RJ Barrett had 22 points and 11 assists for Toronto, which came in 0-10 on the road. Scottie Barnes added 17 points for the Raptors, who hit a season-high 21 3s.

Battle, who was 3 of 10 on 3s for the season, went 6 for 8.

Jeremiah Robinson-Earl had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Pelicans.

GRIZZLIES 131, PISTONS 111

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Marcus Smart scored a season-high 25 points to lead Memphis to a victory over Detroit.

Smart was 8 of 12 from the field, including 7 of 11 from outside the arc. Scotty Pippen Jr. and Jake LaRavia finished with 19 points apiece, Pippen adding seven rebounds while hitting 9 of 12 shots as Memphis won its fourth straight. LaRavia missed only one of his nine shots.

Marcus Sasser led the Pistons with 22 points, while Simone Fontecchio had 18. Jaden Ivey finished with 17 points.

Both teams were missing key offensive threats. Pistons guard Cade Cunningham missed his third game with a sacroiliac joint sprain. Meanwhile, Ja Morant, who just returned to the Grizzlies lineup after missing eight games, wasn't available because of a left knee contusion.

KINGS 115, TIMBERWOLVES 104

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Malik Monk had 27 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, De'Aaron Fox added 26 points, eight assists and eight rebounds, and Sacramento rode a gritty performance underneath both baskets to a victory against scuffling Minnesota.

Monk and Fox combined to outscore the Timberwolves 17-2 over the final five minutes. Domantas Sabonis had 27 points and 12 rebounds as Sacramento snapped a four-game losing streak.

Led by Sabonis, Sacramento outscored Minnesota 64-36 in the paint. The Kings also had 12 offensive rebounds to four for the Timberwolves.

LAKERS 119, SPURS 101

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Anthony Davis had 19 points and 14 rebounds, LeBron James finished with 16 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds Los Angeles beat San Antonio.

Rookie Dalton Knecht had 20 pointson 4-for-10 shooting from long distance as the Lakers snapped a three-game skid.

Victor Wembanyama had 20 points and 10 rebounds as the Spurs had their four-game winning streak ended. Harrison Barnes added 19 points and Julian Champagnie scored 18.

Los Angeles led by as many as 15 points in the first half before San Antonio cut the deficit to eight points. Los Angeles' Austin Reaves quelled the rally by hitting a 3-pointer over Wembanyama as time expired in the first half, giving the Lakers a 58-47 lead.

NUGGETS 122, JAZZ 103

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Nikola Jokic had 30 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists to lead Denver to a victory over Utah.

Jokic scored 19 points on 8-of-10 shooting in the first quarter alone to rally Denver from an early 12-point deficit.

Jamal Murray added 22 points, eight assists and four steals for the Nuggets. Michael Porter Jr. had 19 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Christian Braun finished with 18 points and seven boards.

Collin Sexton led the Jazz with 26 points. Keyonte George scored 23, including five 3-pointers. Walker Kessler chipped in with 16 points, 12 rebounds and five assists.

NETS 127, SUNS 117

PHOENIX (AP)—Tyrese Martin scored a career-high 30 points, Dennis Schroder added 29 and injury-depleted Brooklyn beat Phoenix.

The Nets have won four of their last five games. The Suns have lost seven of nine.

Martin shot 10 of 13 from the field, including 8 for 10 from 3-point range, in his best NBA performance by a wide margin. He had scored just 33 points in 21 career games before Wednesday.

Ben Simmons had 14 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for Brooklyn.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 31 points. Kevin Durant had 30 points against his former team, but also seven turnovers.

THUNDER 105, WARRIORS 101

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Jalen Williams exited late in the first half with a right eye injury and Oklahoma City held off Curry-less Golden State.

Andrew Wiggins made it a one-point game on a 3-pointer with 11 seconds left. After Gilgeous-Alexander missed a free throw at the other end, Wiggins was blocked by Luguentz Dort on a game-tying layup.

Gilgeous-Alexander followed up his 37-point performance from Monday's 130-109 victory at Sacramento by shooting 13 for 28 in the third straight win by Oklahoma City (14-4).

Kuminga returned from a two-game absence with an illness to start and scored a team-high 19 points for the Warriors (12-6), who were missing Stephen Curry due to pain in both his knees.

Kikuchi, LA Angels finalize a $63-million, 3-year contract

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels are rebuilding from the worst season in franchise history, and they think Yusei Kikuchi will be a solid piece of their new foundation.

The veteran left-hander and the Angels finalized a $63 million, three-year contract on Wednesday, adding another veteran arm to the Halos' revamped rotation.

The 33-year-old Kikuchi gets $21 million annually, which raises his Major League Baseball earnings to $142 million over nine seasons.

Angels general manager Perry Minasian said the team valued Kikuchi's durability and strike-throwing consistency in their decision to make a hefty financial commitment to him.

"I believe we're better," Minasian said. "Biggest commitment I've made since I've been here, and I don't take that likely, but I felt like we needed to add a rotation piece that could slot everybody down."

An All-Star with Seattle in 2021, Kikuchi was 9-10 with a 4.05 ERA in 32 starts this year for Toronto and Houston, which acquired him on July 30 for 23-year-old right-hander Jake Bloss, rookie outfielder Joey Loperfido and minor league first baseman Will Wagner.

Kikuchi was 5-1 with a 2.70 ERA in 10 starts with the Astros, striking out 76 and walking 14 in 60 innings. His four-seam fastball averaged 95.5 mph this year, the highest of his big league career.

"Strong finish with Houston after the trade," Minasian said. "We really liked what we saw before that, too, when you look at his underlying numbers. ... The makeup fit, first and foremost. Great person, worker, loves to pitch, loves to work, helps other players. It's somebody that I think is going to be a welcomed addition and somebody that I'm excited about."

Kikuchi is 41-47 with a 4.57 ERA in six major league seasons with Seattle (2019-21), Toronto (2022-24) and Houston.

He famously attended Hanamaki Higashi High School in northern Japan, three years ahead of former Angels star Shohei Ohtani.

Kikuchi signed with the Mariners ahead of the 2019 season when Seattle agreed to a contract that paid him $43 million over three years. The Mariners also paid a $10,275,000 posting fee to the Pacific League's Seibu Lions. He signed with Toronto in March 2022, agreeing to a $36 million, three-year contract.

The Angels have been the most aggressive team in baseball so far this offseason as they seek a fresh start from their 63-99 season.

Kikuchi joins a projected rotation that includes left-handers Tyler Anderson and Reid Detmers and right-handers José Soriano and Kyle Hendricks, who left the Chicago Cubs as a free agent and agreed to a $2.5 million, one-year contract.

Minasian said Kikuchi, Anderson, Soriano and Hendricks are "pretty safe to be in the rotation," and the Angels will figure out the details in spring training. The GM also emphasized that it will be a five-man rotation after years of a six-man rotation in Anaheim to provide extra rest to Ohtani.

Right-hander Griffin Canning was traded to the Atlanta Braves for outfielder and designated hitter Jorge Soler on Oct. 31. Los Angeles also reached a $12 million, two-year contract with catcher Travis d'Arnaud.

"We're trying to get better, so with what we've done so far, we've been pretty aggressive," Minasian said. "We're going to continue to be aggressive. When you have the year we had, there's definitely areas to get better. Really every area. We'll look to attack all those areas and improve this club."

The Angels endured their ninth straight losing season—the longest active streak in the majors—after losing Ohtani in free agency to the Dodgers last winter. They have not reached the playoffs since 2014, the majors' longest active drought.

AP
Houston Astros starting pitcher Yusei Kikuchi throws against the Seattle Mariners during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024, in Houston.

Farmer guaranteed $3.25M in 1-year deal with Colorado Rockies

DENVER (AP)—Infielder Kyle Farmer is guaranteed $3.25 million in his one-year contract with the Colorado Rockies and can earn $1.25 million in performance bonuses for plate appearances next season.

Farmer gets a $2.5 million salary next season as part of the deal announced Saturday. It includes a $4 million mutual option for 2026 with a $750,000 buyout.

He would get $125,000 each for 200 and 350 plate appearances, $150,000 apiece for 400 and 450, $200,000 for 500 and $500,000 for 550. Farmer can earn the bonuses in 2025 only.

Colorado announced the agreement one day after failing to offer a 2025 contract to Brendan Rodgers, making former first-round pick a free agent.

Farmer hit .214 with five homers and 25 RBIs over 107 games last season with Minnesota. The 34-year-old has a .250 average with 55 homers and 254 RBIs in eight seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers (2017-18), Cincinnati (2019-22) and the Twins.

The 34-year-old was an eighth-round pick by the Dodgers in 2013 out of the University of Georgia. He made his debut on July 30, 2017, going 1 for 1 with 2 RBIs against San Francisco.

Source: Snell, Dodgers agree to $182M, 5-year contract

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

Less than a month after winning the World Series, the Los Angeles Dodgers are spending big again to add one of baseball's best pitchers to their star-studded roster.

Blake Snell and the Dodgers agreed to a $182 million, five-year contract, according to a person with direct knowledge of the negotiations. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Tuesday night because the deal is subject to a successful physical.

The two-time Cy Young Award winner broke the news personally by posting a photo of himself on social media in a Dodgers uniform—No. 7.

Snell gets a $52 million signing bonus, payable on Jan. 20, and annual salaries of $26 million, of which $13 million each year will be deferred. Because Snell is a Washington state resident, the signing bonus will not be subject to California income tax.

Snell would join two-way star Shohei Ohtani and fellow Japanese right-hander Yoshinobu Yamamoto atop Los Angeles' rotation, giving the Dodgers the first mega-deal this offseason following Ohtani's $700 million, 10-year contract and Yamamoto's $325 million, 12-year agreement last offseason.

Ohtani didn't pitch this year while recovering from right elbow surgery but is expected back on the mound in 2025. He won his third MVP award—first in the National League—following a huge season at the plate exclusively as a designated hitter.

Yamamoto went 7-2 with a 3.00 ERA in 18 starts as a rookie, then won twice in four October outings.

Down to three healthy starting pitchers during the postseason, Los Angeles overcame a string of injuries to its projected rotation in winning the franchise's second World Series title in five years.

Right-handers Jack Flaherty and Walker Buehler then became free agents this fall, creating more voids on the staff. But the addition of Snell would fill a large one at the top with a legitimate ace.

Snell's $36.4 million average salary would rank as the fifth-highest among active deals next year behind Ohtani ($70 million), Philadelphia pitcher Zack Wheeler ($42 million), New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge ($40 million) and Texas pitcher Jacob deGrom ($37 million). Among expired contracts, it also was exceeded by pitchers Max Scherzer and Justin Verlander (both $43.33 million) under deals they agreed to with the New York Mets.

ESPN first reported the details of Snell's contract.

Earlier this month, Snell opted out of his deal with San Francisco to become a free agent for the second consecutive offseason after he was slowed by injuries during his lone year with the Giants.

The left-hander agreed in March to a $62 million, two-year contract that included a $17 million signing bonus payable on Jan. 15, 2026, a $15 million salary for 2024 and a $30 million salary for 2025, of which $15 million would have been deferred and payable on July 1, 2027.

Snell, who turns 32 next week, went 5-3 with a 3.12 ERA in 20 starts this year, throwing a no-hitter at Cincinnati on Aug. 2 for one of only 16 individual shutouts in the major leagues this season. He struck out 145 and walked 44 in 104 innings.

He was sidelined between April 19 and May 22 by a strained left adductor and between June 2 and July 9 by a strained left groin.

Snell won Cy Young Awards in 2018 with Tampa Bay and 2023 with San Diego. He is 76-58 with a 3.19 ERA in nine seasons with the Rays (2016-20), Padres (2021-23) and Giants.

Because he turned down a qualifying offer from San Diego last November, the Giants were not eligible to give Snell another one and won't receive draft-pick compensation.

Los Angeles expects All-Star right-hander Tyler Glasnow and three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw back in the rotation next year. Other starting candidates if healthy include right-handers Dustin May, Tony Gonsolin and Bobby Miller.

Ohtani is coming off right elbow surgery in September 2023 and left shoulder surgery on Nov. 5.

Glasnow didn't pitch after Aug. 11 because of right elbow tendinitis.

Kershaw, who turns 37 in March, had foot and knee surgeries on Nov. 7. He declined a $10 million player option in favor of free agency, but is expected to return to Los Angeles.

May is coming back from Tommy John surgery in July 2023 and from an operation this past July to repair a tear in his esophagus.

Gonsolin spent 2024 rehabbing from Tommy John surgery.

Miller, an 11-game winner as a rookie in 2023, was sidelined early this season by shoulder inflammation. He struggled to a 2-4 record with an 8.52 ERA in 13 big league starts and ended the regular season in the minors.

Yamamoto was sidelined by right triceps tightness between June 15 and Sept. 10, then returned and went 2-0 with a 3.86 ERA in four postseason starts.

MRA 2024 Turkey Cross this weekend

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

After feasting on turkey, ham, and the works for Thanksgiving, feast your senses at the annual Marianas Racing Association Turkey Cross Motocross Race 2024 this weekend at the Cowtown Raceway Park.

CNMI racers are revving up to defend their title against over 30 Guam racers this Saturday and Sunday in Marpi.

The heart-pounding, dust-churning, and high-flying action is set to start at 10am on both days and will feature 16 categories: Pewee ATV, Pewee I, Pewee II, Mini I, Mini ATV, Big Boys ATV Novice, Power Puff Girls, Women's, Big Boys ATV, Mini II, Veteran's ATV, Veteran's, Novice, Intermediate, Open Expert, and Legends.

MRA president Ellery Cruz said that this year, the event is set to be bigger and better.

"With two intense heats on Saturday and one final heat on Sunday, you won't want to miss a single minute of the high-speed action! Saturday's races will wrap up around 5pm, while Sunday's thrilling finale concludes around 2pm." He then said there's a banquet and awards ceremony after to celebrate the weekend's champions and the spirit of motocross.

With that, he said, "Bring the whole family out and get ready to cheer your heart out! Pack your tents, tables, chairs, BBQ pits, coolers, and loads of excitement for a full weekend of exhilarating races, all set against the breathtaking backdrop of the racetrack and the ocean in Marpi. Best part? Entry is free, but be sure to arrive early to secure your prime spot for an unforgettable view. "

He added, "Saipan is ready to defend its title as the Expert champion for the past two years, so let's make sure everyone enjoys the race in safety. Please respect the track and barriers to keep the event fun and secure for all. As a reminder, all public spectators are not allowed on the track without any approval from race track officials, and must refrain from standing on any of the barriers."

He then gave a huge thank you to their incredible sponsors for making the event possible: Gov. Arnold Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Sapan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. J.P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, members of the House of Representatives, Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Finance, Joeten Motors Co., Herman's Modern Bakery, MarPac, YCO True Value, Monster Energy, and their tireless track maintenance crew from the Department of Public Works led by Mike Borja and the amazing team at the Mayor's Office. "Your dedication makes this event a reality, and we couldn't do it without you," he said.

Meanwhile, former MRA president Charles Cepeda welcomed the 33 Guam riders competing this weekend.

"We are thrilled to have such competitive races at our very own Cowtown Raceway Park. The excitement of motocross is truly alive in the Mariana Islands, and the fact that racers from Guam have made the effort to come to Saipan to ride on our track is a testament to the strong adrenaline rush that fuels each and every racer participating in this weekend's races."

He said a tough weekend awaits the Guam motocross enthusiasts and the 23 home-grown riders in the 2024 edition of the Turkey Cross.

LAO ZHANG

Riders in the 2022 MRA Turkey Cross turn a corner in the course at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi.

"Racing three heats in just two days is no small feat, requiring immense commitment and preparation. We are grateful to the officers who worked tirelessly to make this event possible, as well as the MRA board, including president Ellery Cruz, vice president Paul Guerrero, Amanda Cruz, and all the board members. Special thanks to Jeff Rios, Bob Bucek, Tim Wenden, and the Guam officers for their hard work in bringing 33 racers and their families to Saipan. A big shoutout to this weekend's track masters, Mr. David Burger and Mr. Dennis Quinones, for ensuring the safety of everyone on and off the track."

Cepeda then invited the community to partake of the inter-island motocross extravaganza up north this Saturday and Sunday.

"Join us at Cowtown this Thanksgiving weekend for high-speed dirt track races on Saturday and Sunday. Bring your family, chairs, tents, coolers, barbecue, and everything you need to enjoy the thrilling scenery at Cowtown Raceway Park. See you there!"

VELASCO

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by Robyn Spaeth and Heather Brook with times of 1:25:15 and 1:28:23, respectively. Kathy Ruszala was the lone competitor in the women's 40-44 and finished with a time of 1:30:32.

Remillosa, meanwhile, took the MTB division with a time of 1:29:22, followed closely by Leo Baetiong and Nap Dizon in 1:29:25 and 1:29:27, respectively.

The 43-year-old Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power generation electrician said he likes the course very much as there was not much vehicles on the road and the weather conditions were almost perfect with just a drizzle of rain.

He said the hardest part of the race were the ascents, while the easiest part was the flat course from Banzai Cliff to Seafix. Remillosa them dedicated his win to his wife, Lanie, and their three children—Andrea, Jacob,and Joaquin.

Other age group winners in the MTB division were Mike "Hokage" Lagunay in the below 40 (1:35:05), Hernando Cristobal in the 45-39 (1:38:56), Nelson Pagaduan in the 50-54 (1:33:08), Diony Valdisimo in the 55-59 (1:59:47), and Watty Alvarez in the 60 and above (1:45:30).

The winners of the short course road bike race from Banzai Cliff, to Tanapag Mobil, and back to Banzai Cliff were Mark Louie Oria in the below 40 (0:56:47), Jay Rivera in the 40-49 (0:49:54), Nestor Corotan in the 50-59 (0:50:13), and Ronnie Santos in the 60 and above (0:49:53).

In the MTB division, the winners were Aldrin Robles in the 40 below (0:56:45), Ariel Domingo in the 40-49 (0:57:34), Erwin Calage in the 50-59 (0:52:08), Rico Manungay in the 60 and above (0:58:39), and Nicole Mascarinas in the women's below 40 (1:08:04).

SANTOS

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who was also first place last year, said that this year's race was harder. "I've started playing soccer a little bit and my ankle has been really hurting and just being able to push through this is a blessing."

As to why he woke up early on Thanksgiving Day to join the race again, he said he wanted to come back and try to defend his title. He also said, "I love this uphill environment. I feel like it's really challenging and helps you mentally and physically. It's just a good challenge for me and I enjoy it."

With what he's grateful for this year, he said, "First I want to say I'm grateful for Jesus Christ for giving me the privilege to run, compete, and being able to finish, and for also helping me through everything this year. I am also grateful for my family for always being there for me to support me and my friends for making my life a lot better and for just being a part of my life!"

For 55-year-old Miller, she said that it's probably her second time to join the annual race. She said she wanted to join for fun and "I want to eat a lot of turkey tonight so I need to exercise."

The course, she said, was so tough. "I usually run on flat ground so I never trained for uphill—it's so hard… the 4K point was so hard." But despite the early morning showers and cold weather, she said it did not deter her from joining the race.

She then gave thanks to Northern Marianas Athletics, Run Saipan, and all volunteers. "They were hard working for us to organize the race and help the runners," she said.

The 2024 Turkey Trot is sponsored by Run Saipan, Joeten Enterprises, IT&E CNMI, Triple J Group of Companies, MARPAC, and Saipan Vegas Resort.

The rest of the Top 3 in the men's and women's divisions along with the age group winners will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

CNMI

From page 16

from Heras, Lee, Eliott, and Raulerson.

"The girls played great and adjusted to the condition of the courts. They're improving each day. All four of them served really well. Our girls have more pace and speed on the tennis balls against Brunei today. We have to win against Macau to be on the top of the pool. Then we will play against the top team in Pool D. If we win against the top team from Pool D, we will advance to Group II next year."

Individually, she said so far so good for the CNMI's top netters.

"The four girls played really well today (Wednesday). Carol is a Top 3 player in the tournament in my opinion. She served good and not many rallies against the Brunei player. In doubles the girls also played great. Hye Jin and Asia today showed good communication and served really well too. Isabel played much better today as she adjusted to the court conditions. She also overpowered her opponent with the pace of her shots."

Lee said the back-to-back wins show the CNMI's true mettle in international plauy.

"We showed up on the court with grit and confidence which helped is secure a 3-0 win against Brunei. We are playing against Macau tomorrow (today) and we need another win on Saturday to secure a promotion."

Asked to compare the Pacific Oceania team she played for last year in the Billie Jean King Cup that was promoted to Group 1 and the CNMI team now, Lee said there's no comparison and said she will always favor the home team.

"This team holds a special place in my heart because this marks our historic debut in the Billie Jean King Cup. Representing my island alongside teammates who, like me, were born and raised on Saipan is an honor. Together, we are making history, and this inspires me to give my all to help our team achieve promotion and bring global recognition to our country. Even though we have been far apart, the formation of the NMI team provides an opportunity for us to reunite and compete as one. This journey fills me with a sense of nostalgia, reminding me of the strength and pride we share as a community."

The team's Benjamin, Eliott, for her part, said she's really excited to be taking part in the Billie Jean King Cup.

"It's also really exciting since this is the first time the NMI is in this tournament. Hopefully we will do well to make it to the next round. The training has been really great and it's nice to hit against high-level players. I was really happy about my first win in the Billie Jean Kin Cup. It was nice playing with Asia. Bahrain has been welcoming and fun so far. The players from other countries as well as Bahrain have been very friendly."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	15	3	.833	–
New York	10	8	.556	5
Brooklyn	9	10	.474	6½
Toronto	5	14	.263	10½
Philadelphia	3	14	.176	11½
Southeast Division				
Orlando	13	7	.650	–
Miami	8	8	.500	3
Atlanta	8	11	.421	4½
Charlotte	6	12	.333	6
Washington	2	15	.118	9½
Central Division				
Cleveland	17	2	.895	–
Milwaukee	9	9	.500	7½
Indiana	9	10	.474	8
Chicago	8	12	.400	9½
Detroit	8	12	.400	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	14	6	.700	–
Memphis	12	7	.632	1½
Dallas	11	8	.579	2½
San Antonio	10	9	.526	3½
New Orleans	4	15	.211	9½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	14	4	.778	–
Denver	10	7	.588	3½
Minnesota	8	10	.444	6
Portland	7	12	.368	7½
Utah	4	14	.222	10
Pacific Division				
Golden State	12	6	.667	–
L.A. Lakers	11	7	.611	1
L.A. Clippers	12	8	.600	1
Phoenix	10	8	.556	2
Sacramento	9	10	.474	3½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Young powers Hawks' 135-124 win over Cavs with career-high 22 assists

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Santos, Miller feast to 1st place finish in Turkey Trot

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

An abundance of fog, cold, rain, and mud was counteracted by the abundance of thanks, smiles through the pain, family time, and the chance for a free turkey for the over 140 early Thanksgiving morning runners of the Northern Marianas Athletics' Mt. Tapochau Turkey Trot 2024.

Emerging to be one of the fastest runners on Saipan—high school junior Victor Nash Santos—gobbled up the 4.2-mile uphill trek up the highest peak with a time of 40:19 and was rewarded with a turkey for his efforts.

Meanwhile, Akiko Miller was the fastest woman with a time of 45 minutes flat.

The 16-year-old Santos,

See SANTOS on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

Repeat overall first place student athlete Victor Nash Santos is seen at the finish line at the top of Mt. Tapochau during the Northern Marianas Athletics' Mt. Tapochau Turkey Trot 2024 yesterday.

LEIGH GASES

First place in the women's division, Akiko Miller, trudges up the last few steps to the finish line atop Mt. Tapochau during the Northern Marianas Athletics' Mt. Tapochau Turkey Trot 2024 yesterday.

LEIGH GASES

Repeat overall champion Victor Nash Santos, right, poses with women's overall first place Akiko Miller after the Northern Marianas Athletics' Mt. Tapochau Turkey Trot 2024 yesterday at Mt. Tapochau.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group photo of participants of the 2024 Saipan Unity Lions Club Year-End Pedal For Health Bike Race held last Sunday, Nov. 24 from Banzai Cliff in Marpi.

Velasco, Remillosa top 2024 Pedal for Health

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Menace on two wheels Arvin Velasco and Fred Remillosa topped their respective categories in the Pedal for Health 2024 Saipan Unity Lions Club Year-End Bike Race held last Sunday, Nov. 24.

Velasco won the road bike division after deftly negotiating the course from Banzai Cliff, to Tanapag Mobil, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, then back to Banzai Cliff in 1:08:49. He was followed by Jay Ar Barrios and Joel Buca with times of 1:10:40 and 1:11:25, respectively.

"The course was the same from previous SULC races with a long flat at the beginning then uphill. The weather was perfect. It was raining in the early morning bit it was sunny most of the race."

The 31-year-old nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center dialysis unit said the hardest part of the race was the flat part of because of the headwind.

"I broke away from the group at Kilometer 8 and had to do solo for the rest of the 28 kilometers. The easiest part was when I started to see the finish line as my suffering was almost finished," said Velasco.

He then dedicating his win, first and foremost, to God and his family for always supporting him.

Men's age group winners in the road bike division include Paulo Pepito in the below 40 (1:12:43), Lo Manalo in the 40-44 (1:13:34), Elmer Esdrelon in the 45-49 (1:14:31), Ricky Suba in the 50-54 (1:15:08), Bernard Laborce in the 55-59 (1:24:32), and Norlo Jacosalem in the 60-64 (1:19:26).

In the women's category, Kimiko McKagan won the race after crossing the finish line in 1:24:18, followed

See VELASCO on Page 15

CNMI raises record to 2-0 in Billie Jean King Cup

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

The CNMI won its second tie in the 2024 Billie Jean King Cup after sweeping Brunei, 3-0, last Wednesday in Pool A of Asia/Oceania III at the Bahrain Tennis Club in Manama, Bahrain.

CNMI No. 2 Isabel Herras was again the first on the court, and unlike the tie against Vietnam, the Metropolitan State University varsity tennis player prevailed over Brunei's Danielle Lim, 6-1, 6-2

Carol Lee, the CNMI's No 1 netter, then barely lifted a finger in her match against Jia Hui Tan that the former Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket won handily, 6-0,6-1, to clinch the tie and up the CNMI's record to 2-0 in Pool A of the competition.

With the win in the bag, team captain Lydia Tan fielded Hye Jin Eliott of Adrian College and Asia Raulerson of Albany State University and the duo went on to beat Eunice Ying Ci Lo and Areeesha Zain, 6-1, 6-2, to give the CNMI a 3-0 sweep heading to today's tie against Macau.

Tan couldn't ask for more

See CNMI on Page 15

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carol Lee, right and the CNMI's No 1 netter, poses with the umpire and Brunei's Jia Hui Tan before their 2024 Billie Jean King Cup match last Wednesday at the Bahrain Tennis Club in Manama, Bahrain.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Isabel Heras, right and the CNMI's No 2 netter, poses with the umpire and Brunei's Danielle Lim before their 2024 Billie Jean King Cup match last Wednesday at the Bahrain Tennis Club in Manama, Bahrain.